



File Code: 1950

Date: June 28, 2013

Dear Friend of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest:

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Skykomish Geothermal Consent to Lease project is available for review. This letter is to invite your comments on the EA prior to my decision.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guided our preparation of this EA. The environmental analysis began with a 30 day scoping period starting June 6, 2012. A request was received on June 14, 2012 to extend the scoping comment period; the request was granted which extended the scoping period to August 6, 2012. Scoping comments and Tribal input were considered as the project's Interdisciplinary Team completed the analysis and prepared the EA. You are included in this mailing because you have indicated an interest in the project by providing scoping comments or by other means.

Project implementation would authorize the BLM to conduct geothermal lease sales for those lands nominated and analyzed in the EA. Stipulations developed in this EA would be incorporated into any lease that the BLM may offer to the public. Project implementation involves leasing the nominated lands only, and would not authorize or allow any surface disturbing activities. Any post-leasing exploration or development would be subject to further environmental analysis.

The project area is located in Snohomish County on the Skykomish Ranger District, approximately 6 air miles northeast of the town of Skykomish and approximately 9 air miles northeast of the town of Index, in the North Fork Skykomish, Beckler, and Rapid River watersheds. A total of approximately 12,300 acres were analyzed for leasing in the project area.

In an effort to reduce paper use, the Forest will emphasize electronic correspondence throughout this project. Digital copies of the EA will be made available, on CD, sent by email, or posted on the Forest's project webpage. If you would prefer a paper copy of the EA, please request through the project team leader Todd Griffin at (360) 677-2258 or [toddgriffin@fs.fed.us](mailto:toddgriffin@fs.fed.us). Electronic copies of the EA are available on the Forest website [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/mbs/projects](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/mbs/projects), under the project title, Skykomish Geothermal Project. This website is the most up-to-date source for project information.

Comments on this EA may be submitted by e-mail, letter, telephone, office visit, or fax. Comments need to be in message. text, .doc, .rtf, or .pdf format. Send e-mail comments to: [comments-pacificnorthwest-mtbaker-snoqualmie@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-mtbaker-snoqualmie@fs.fed.us). Send comments to: Jennifer Eberlien, Forest Supervisor, Re: Skykomish Geothermal Project, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, 2930 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A, Everett WA 98201. Comments may also be submitted by phone to (425) 783-6033; fax (425) 783-0214; or in person at the above address during business hours (8:00a.m. to 4:30p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays). The Forest Supervisor is the Responsible Official.

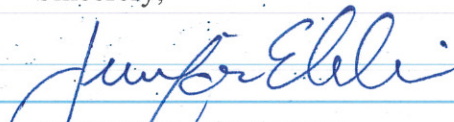


The pre-decisional comment period for this EA will end 30 days after the date of publication of the legal notice in the Everett Herald. If the comment period expires on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, comments are due by the end of the next Federal working day. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Federal regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the Project Record and available for public review.

After the close of the 30-day comment period, I will release a Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.7, the decision will be subject to pre-decisional objection under 36 CFR 218, sub parts A and B. Only those who have submitted timely, specific written comments may file an objection (36 CFR 218.5). For additional information, please contact Todd Griffin, Team Leader, at (360) 677-2258, or contact me at (425) 783-6010.

I appreciate your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

  
JENNIFER EBERLIEN  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

