



**VIA Email:** pnash@fs.fed.us

September 7, 2018

Matthew Reidy, District Ranger  
Tonasket Ranger District  
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest  
1 West Winesap Street  
Tonasket, Washington 98855

Dear Matt:

On behalf of the American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) and its members, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Beaver Salvage Project.

AFRC is a regional trade association whose purpose is to advocate for sustained yield timber harvests on public timberlands throughout the West to enhance forest health and resistance to fire, insects, and disease. We do this by promoting active management to attain productive public forests, protect adjoining private forests, and assure community stability. We work to improve federal and state laws, regulations, policies and decisions regarding access to and management of public forest lands and protection of all forest lands. Many of our members have their operations in communities within and adjacent to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and management on these lands ultimately dictates not only the viability of their businesses, but also the economic health of the communities themselves.

A wind storm in June, 2018 blew down or damaged timber on approximately 96 acres in the Upper Bonaparte watershed on the Tonasket Ranger District. The trees damaged campgrounds, fences and other resources. The Forest is planning to remove the down and damaged trees as well as danger trees within the Beaver campground and adjacent Bonaparte Scout Camp.

AFRC Supports the salvage of this material and provides the following comments that we believe will enhance the project.

1. AFRC supports the use of the 36 CFR 220.6e(13): "Salvage of dead and/or dying trees not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than ½ mile of temporary road construction." AFRC further suggests that while this CE supports salvage of 250 acres, the Forest take this opportunity to look for additional salvage acres impacting recreation over a bigger area in order to enhance the economics of the project and remove additional hazard trees.

2. AFRC suggests that the Forest take this opportunity to remove not only the current damaged trees from within the campground and Scout Camp but also potential danger trees that might impact the safety of recreationists. This might include trees with poor vigor, rot or root damage that could might make these trees hazardous in the near future.
3. AFRC supports immediate implementation of this project as outlined in the scoping notice and salvaging the wood before the winter of 2018.
4. AFRC supports the construction and use of 500 feet or more of temporary roads to access the down material with ground based skidding equipment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Beaver Salvage Project. I look forward to following the implementation of this project as it moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Partin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Tom Partin  
AFRC Consultant  
P.O. Box 1934  
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035