



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Okanogan and Wenatchee
National Forests
Wenatchee River Ranger District

600 Sherbourne
Leavenworth, WA 98826
(509) 548-6977
Fax (509) 548-5817

File Code: 1950

Date: August 7, 2007

Dear Forest User,

The Wenatchee River Ranger District is proposing to restore late-successional habitat within the Little Wenatchee Late Successional Reserve (LSR) by commercially thinning approximately 68 acres of 55-year-old forest stands, pre-commercially thinning approximately 46 acres of younger forest stands, and decommissioning 1.0 miles of road. Thinning these plantations will accelerate succession and improve wildlife habitat. Decommissioning the last mile of Forest Service Road #6503-230, including removing culverts, subsoiling or scarifying the road surface, seeding, and blocking the entrance will improve fisheries and wildlife habitat.

The upper Little Wenatchee River watershed, below the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness, was designated as an LSR by the Northwest Forest Plan in 1994, removing this area from scheduled timber harvest. Extensive timber harvesting occurred in this area from the early 1950s through the early 1990s. The LSR Assessment (1997) and Watershed Assessment (1998) completed for the area identified the need to thin managed stands of forest to accelerate succession and to decommission roads to improve habitat quality. A roads analysis completed in 2003 reaffirmed recommendations from earlier assessments and identified specific sections of road to decommission. This project will act on some of these recommendations. This project is anticipated to be the first in a series to restore portions of the Little Wenatchee watershed. The proposed project is located along Forest Service Road #6503-230 in T28N, R15E, south half of Section 33 and T27N, R15E, north half of Section 4 (see attached map).

An Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) of resource specialists will analyze existing data for each resource area combined with new information obtained through field surveys and public scoping. The ID Team will prepare the appropriate environmental analysis in order for me to make an informed decision regarding the proposal.

If you would like to express your thoughts or concerns about the Little Wenatchee Late Successional Reserve Habitat Restoration project please contact Don Youkey by mail at the above address, by phone at (509) 548-6977 ext. 271, or by email at comments_wenatchee_river@fs.fed.us (please reference this project in the subject line). Your comments are always appreciated and will best serve the project if received before September 10, 2007. Please note that all public comments become part of the public record and could be subject to FOIA (Freedom of Information Act). If you do not wish to comment, but would still like to receive further information regarding this project, please let us know.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

VAUGHAN D. MARABLE
District Ranger



