



File Code: 1950

Date: July 7, 2023

Dear Interested Party,

The McKinley Lake Dam Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed Terms and Conditions is available on the Lolo National Forest website at:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/lolo/landmanagement/projects>.

In summary, the McKinley Lake Dam Terms and Conditions project includes measures to be imposed upon the City of Missoula to protect natural resources and wilderness values during the breaching /decommissioning of McKinley Lake Dam. The 100-year-old dam is failing, and the spillway is experiencing severe erosive headcutting and has been deemed a significant hazard. The dam is in the Rattlesnake Wilderness and is owned and operated by the City of Missoula. The City is responsible for the safe decommissioning of the McKinley Lake Dam. The proposed project area is three acres proximate to the 15 acre lake. McKinley Lake Dam is one of a network of 10 dams on eight lakes in the Rattlesnake Wilderness that were built as Missoula's early municipal watershed in the early 1910s and 1920s. The City of Missoula has rights of motorized access granted to the owners of the water rights to operate and maintain facilities in the Rattlesnake drainage as part of the 1980 Act designating the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area and Wilderness. A minimum requirements analysis was conducted by the Forest Service to determine the minimum tools to accomplish the work safely and efficiently within one field season. The EA discloses the foreseeable environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives.

Comments on this EA will be accepted for 30 days following publication of the legal notice in the Missoulian newspaper. I expect the notice to be published on July 11, 2023. Pursuant to 36 CFR 218, only those who submit timely and specific written comments about this proposed activity during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. Comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. Other eligibility requirements include:

- Commenter's name and postal address
- Title of the project
- Commenter's signature or other verification of identity upon request and the identity of the individual or entity who authored the comments
- Individual members of an entity must submit their own individual comments to have eligibility to object as an individual.

Please send comments to:

McKinley Dam Project Manager
Lolo National Forest
24 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59801



Comments may also be submitted electronically on the project on the Lolo National Forest web page at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=63564>. If you have questions about the project, please contact Kimberly Smolt, Project Manager, at Kimberly.smolt@usda.gov or District Ranger Crystal Stonesifer at crystal.stonesifer@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN UPTON
Lolo Forest Supervisor