



NEWS RELEASE

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Amends seven national forests' plans

Decision released on Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment

DENVER, Colo., Nov. 5, 2008 – Today, the U.S. Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Region Deputy Regional Forester, Tony Dixon, announced the availability of the Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). The Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment FEIS and ROD amends seven National Forests' Resource Land Management Plans in Colorado and southern Wyoming to add lynx habitat management direction.

The Canada lynx was listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species in 2000 under the Endangered Species Act. An important factor in the listing decision was the lack of management direction for lynx conservation on National Forest System lands.

“With the majority of lynx habitat occurring on National Forest System lands, it is essential that there is consistent direction across the southern Rockies geographic area that will contribute to the conservation and recovery of the lynx while preserving the overall multiple-use direction in existing land management plans. This amendment, which is the culmination of over seven years of study, collaboration, and planning by Forest Service staff, researchers, partner agencies, special interest organizations, and members of the general public, provides this direction,” said Tony Dixon, Deputy Regional Forester for Natural Resources.

This decision is subject to review pursuant to the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations. Appeals must be postmarked or received by the appeal reviewing officer within 45 days of the date the notice is published in the Denver Post, the Region's newspaper of record. The official notice is anticipated to be published on Friday, Nov. 7. Instructions on how to file appeals may be found in the ROD.

A copy of the Amendment and related documents along with additional information are available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/projects/lynx>. Copies of the FEIS and ROD may also be obtained by contacting Martha Delporte at 303-275-5381.

Questions regarding the FEIS should be directed to Nancy Warren at 303-275-5064.