



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Region One

200 East Broadway
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

File Code: 1570-1 (215)
#03-01-00-0055
Date: August 4, 2003

Jeff Juel
The Ecology Center, Inc.
801 Sherwood Street, Suite B
Missoula, MT 59802

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear Mr. Juel:

This is my decision on disposition of the appeal you filed on behalf of The Ecology Center, Inc.; Alliance for the Wild Rockies; and Friends of the Bitterroot regarding the Post Fire Vegetation and Fuels Management Record of Decision (ROD) on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

The Appeal Reviewing Officer has considered your arguments, the appeal record, and the transmittal letter and recommends the Forest Supervisor's decision be affirmed and your requested relief be denied.

My review of your appeal was conducted pursuant to, and in accordance with, 36 CFR 215.17 to ensure the analysis and decision is in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policy, and orders. I have reviewed the appeal record, including your arguments, the information referenced in the Forest Supervisor's July 3, 2003, transmittal letter, and the Appeal Reviewing Officer's analysis and recommendation (copy enclosed). The transmittal letter provides the specific page references to discussions in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the ROD and project file, which bear upon your objections. I specifically incorporate in this decision the appeal record, the references and citations contained in the transmittal letter, and the Appeal Reviewing Officer's analysis and recommendation.

Based upon a review of the references and citations provided by the Forest Supervisor, I find the objections were adequately considered in the EIS/ROD. I agree with the Appeal Reviewing Officer's analysis and conclusions in regard to your appeal objections. I find the Forest Supervisor has made a reasoned decision and has complied with all laws, regulations, and policy.

After careful consideration of the above factors, I affirm the Forest Supervisor's decision to implement the Post Fire Vegetation and Fuels Management project. Your requested relief is denied.



My decision constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture [36 CFR 215.18(c)].

Sincerely,

/s/ Kathleen A. McAllister
KATHLEEN A. MCALLISTER
Appeal Deciding Officer
Deputy Regional Forester

Enclosures (1)

cc:
B-D NF