



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Region One

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

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**File Code:** 1570-1

**Date:** March 12, 2002

**Route To:** (1570 - 215)

**Subject:** ARO Letter - Keystone-Quartz Ecosystem Management Plan ROD - Appeal #02-01-00-0020 - Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF

**To:** Appeal Deciding Officer

This is my recommendation on disposition of the appeal filed by Sara Jane Johnson on behalf of the Native Ecosystems Council and Skip Mathewson protesting the Keystone-Quartz Ecosystem Management Plan Record of Decision (ROD) on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

The District Ranger's decision adopts Alternative 6, which includes removal of conifer competition from 73 acres of aspen stands; prescribed burning on 317 acres, slashing and hand pile burning on 30 acres, and timber harvest on 260 acres to restore open Douglas-fir forest habitat; and timber harvest on 19 acres to thin dense lodgepole pine stands.

My review was conducted pursuant to, and in accordance with 36 CFR 215.19 to ensure the analysis and decision are in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policy, and orders. The appeal record, including the appellants' issues and recommended changes, has been thoroughly reviewed.

The appellants allege violations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act, the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, the Global Climate Change Prevention Act, the Forest Service Handbook and Manual, and the Beaverhead Forest Plan. The appellants request the ROD be remanded. An informal meeting was held, but there was no resolution of the appeal issues.

### RECOMMENDATION

I find that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and ROD do not adequately address soil analysis. I recommend that the District Ranger's decision be reversed.

/s/ Gary A. Morrison  
GARY A. MORRISON  
Reviewing Officer  
Director of Recreation, Minerals, Lands, Heritage and Wilderness

