



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Region One

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**File Code:** 1570-1

**Date:** April 4, 2005

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

**Subject:** 215 - ARO Letter - Main Boulder Fuels Reduction Project ROD - Gallatin NF -  
Appeal #05-01-00-0014 - Native Ecosystems Council

**To:** Appeal Deciding Officer

This is my recommendation on disposition of the appeal filed by Sara Jane Johnson on behalf of Native Ecosystems Council protesting the Main Boulder Fuels Reduction Project Record of Decision (ROD) on the Gallatin National Forest.

The Forest Supervisor's decision adopts proposed fuel reduction treatments on approximately 2,500 acres in 51 separate units. A minimum of 15 to 20 percent of the planned acreage for each unit will be left untreated to provide diversity across the landscape and maintain undisturbed habitat. Conifers would be slashed and prescribed burning activities would occur on approximately 400 acres of meadow-type habitats. Small-diameter fuel reduction will occur in each unit. Aspen clones would have conifers removed within a radius of 100 feet in order to encourage aspen regeneration. A maximum of 7.4 miles of temporary road may be constructed to access the areas proposed for mechanical fuel treatment using conventional ground-based logging systems.

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 appellant's issues and recommended changes, has been thoroughly reviewed.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Due to the discrepancies between the goshawk analysis and determinations in the FEIS and Biological Evaluation, I recommend that the Forest Supervisor's decision be reversed.

/s/ Lesley W. Thompson  
LESLEY W. THOMPSON  
Appeal Reviewing Officer

