



File Code: 1570-1 (215)
#07-01-00-0151
August 9, 2007

Jeff Juel
WildWest Institute
P.O. Box 7998
Missoula, MT 59807

Dear Mr. Juel:

This is my decision on disposition of the appeal you filed, on behalf of WildWest Institute and Alliance for the Wild Rockies, regarding the Gash Fire Salvage and Reforestation Project Decision Memo (DM) on the Bitterroot National Forest (Stevensville Ranger District).

My review of your appeal was conducted pursuant to, and in accordance with, 36 CFR 215.18 to ensure the analysis and decision are in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policy, and orders. I have reviewed the appeal record, including your arguments, the information referenced in the District Ranger's July 11, 2007, 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 DM 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.

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

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

After careful consideration of the above factors, I affirm the District Ranger's decision to implement the Gash Fire Salvage and Reforestation 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/ David T. Bull
DAVID T. BULL
Appeal Deciding Officer

Enclosure

cc:
Appeal Reviewing Officer
Responsible Official
Forest Coordinator