



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Region One

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

File Code: 1570-1

Date: April 19, 2001

Route To: (1570 - 215)

Subject: ARO Letter, East Fork Meadow Creek Salvage TS DN, Appeal #01-01-00-0030, Clearwater NF

To: Appeal Deciding Officer

This is my recommendation on disposition of the appeal filed by Kristin Ruether on behalf of Friends of the Clearwater, The Ecology Center, The Lands Council, American Wildlands, and Alliance for the Wild Rockies protesting the East Fork Meadow Creek Salvage Timber Sale Decision Notice (DN) signed by the Acting Clearwater National Forest Supervisor, Palouse Ranger District.

The Forest Supervisor's decision adopts modified Alternative F, which allows for timber harvest, watershed restoration and hazard-tree removal in the East Fork Meadow Creek area.

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' objections and recommended changes, has been thoroughly reviewed.

The appellants allege violations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Forest Plan Lawsuit Settlement Agreement, the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), the Clearwater National Forest Plan and the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). The appellants request a remand of the DN. An informal meeting was held but no resolution of the issues was reached.

ISSUE REVIEW

The Forest Supervisor's April 11, 2001, letter of transmittal provides specific page references to discussions in the Environmental Assessment (EA), DN and project file, which bear upon the issues raised. Based upon my review of the references and citations provided, I find that the issues raised were adequately considered in the EA, DN, and project file, and that the Forest Supervisor made a reasoned decision concerning those issues.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend the Forest Supervisor's decision be affirmed and the appellants' requested relief be denied.

/s/ Cindy S. Swanson



CINDY S. SWANSON

Director of Watershed, Wildlife, Fisheries and Rare Plants

