



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 (215)  
#05-01-00-0013  
**Date:** April 4, 2005

Michael T. Garrity  
Executive Director  
Alliance for the Wild Rockies  
P.O. Box 505  
Helena, MT 59624

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear Mr. Garrity:

This is my decision on disposition of the appeal you filed on behalf of Alliance for the Wild Rockies and The Ecology Center, Inc. regarding the Main Boulder Fuels Reduction Project Record of Decision (ROD) on the Gallatin National Forest.

My review of your appeal was conducted pursuant to, and in accordance with, 36 CFR 215.17 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 Forest Supervisor's March 3, 2005, 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.

The Appeal Reviewing Officer has considered your arguments, the appeal record, and the transmittal letter and recommends the Forest Supervisor's decision be reversed due to discrepancies between the goshawk analyses and determinations in the FEIS and the Biological Evaluation. Based upon a review of the references and citations provided by the Forest Supervisor, I agree with the Appeal Reviewing Officer's analysis and conclusions in regard to your appeal objections. Therefore, I am reversing the Forest Supervisor's decision.



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

Enclosures (1)

cc:  
Gallatin NF