



File 1570 (215) Date: June 25, 1998  
Code:  
Route  
To:  
Subject: Old Town Blowdown Salvage TS, Appeal #98-01-00-0061, Lolo National Forest  
To: Appeal Deciding Officer

This is my recommendation on disposition of the appeal filed by Tracy and Bruce Mikesell protesting the Old Town Blowdown Salvage Timber Sale Decision Notice (DN) signed by the Ninemile District Ranger (Lolo National Forest).

The District Ranger's decision adopts Alternative 2, allowing salvage logging of 125 MBF of timber from 33 acres.

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.

### FINDINGS

My recommendation is based upon the following evaluation:

#### Clarity of the Decision and Rationale

The decision is stated immediately in the DN. The decision criteria are plainly expressed. Significant issues are explained well enough to clarify complex relationships.

#### Purpose of the Proposal and Comprehension of Benefits

The purpose and need is clearly stated and tied to the Forest Plan. The consequences of the no-action alternative are disclosed and compared to the action alternative.

#### Consistency with Policy, Direction, and Supporting Information

The decision is consistent with Forest Plan direction to utilize salvage opportunities and support local economies. The effects of the project on ecosystem processes is adequately discussed. The development of alternatives not fully considered could be addressed more completely.

#### Effectiveness of Public Participation Activities and Use of Comments

The District Ranger did an excellent job of involving the public and identifying issues. The decision criteria are developed from the concerns raised by the public and well documented.

#### Appeal Review Findings



The Appeal is clearly written and reflects a knowledge of local conditions. The Appellants' reasons for requesting changes are understandable, although reasoning is based on different perspectives on the interpretative of facts, policies and guidelines.

There is no evidence presented which would lead me to a different conclusion than the District Ranger's decision.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend the District Ranger's decision be affirmed and the Appellants' requested relief be denied.

/s/ Jerry T. Williams

JERRY T. WILLIAMS  
Reviewing Officer