



**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** February 12, 2016

Dear Interested Party,

In December 2015, the Kootenai National Forest (KNF) and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a Joint Final Environmental Impact Statement (Joint Final EIS) for the Montanore Project, a proposed copper and silver underground mine located about 18 miles south of Libby near the Cabinet Mountains of northwestern Montana. The KNF and DEQ issued a Draft EIS for the Montanore Project on February 27, 2009, for public comment. In response to public comment, the agencies revised the mine alternatives (Alternatives 3 and 4) and transmission line alignments (Alternatives C, D, and E) and issued a Supplemental Draft EIS on October 7, 2011. On April 1, 2015, the KNF issued a Final EIS and a Draft Record of Decision (ROD) to provide for a pre-decisional objection process in compliance with 36 CFR 218.

The Joint Final EIS included responses to comments on the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIS and incorporated changes based on those responses. The Joint Final EIS also included revisions made as part of the Forest Service objection process. The KNF identified Mine Alternative 3 and Transmission Line Alternative D-R as its preferred alternatives in the Joint Final EIS.

The KNF has set forth its final decision and rationale for the selected mine and transmission line alternatives in a Final ROD. Notice of the decision will be published in *The Missoulian* (Missoula, Montana), the paper of record for the KNF. The Final ROD is available in two formats: 1) it can be downloaded as a PDF from the Forest Service's web page (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/kootenai/landmanagement/projects>) or 2) it can be requested in a CD format from the KNF Project Coordinator, Lynn Hagarty (contact information below).

In January 2015, the Regional Forester approved a new Kootenai National Forest Land Management Plan (KFP). The Montanore Project will be implemented in accordance with the new KFP. Attachment 10 of the Final ROD describes the amendments to the KFP for the selected mine and transmission line alternatives.

The DEQ has documented its decision regarding the Montanore Project in a separate ROD. Decisions by other agencies that cooperated in the environmental review also will be documented in separate decision documents.

Thank you for taking time to be involved with the Montanore Project. For more information please contact the KNF Project Coordinator, Lynn Hagarty, KNF, 31374 US 2, Libby, MT 59923-3022, 406-293-6211. Project documents can be downloaded from the following website:  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/kootenai/landmanagement/projects>.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER S SAVAGE  
Forest Supervisor

