

Forest Plan Amendment No. 9**Nonsignificant Amendment to the Helena National Forest Plan****USDA Forest Service
Helena National Forest**

Decision: It is my decision to amend the Helena National Forest Plan to make a Management Area boundary adjustment involving 40 acres in McQuithy Gulch (NW 1/4 Sec 15, T12n, R7W). This amendment is based on site specific information developed during project planning. The amendment changes the Management Area allocation for the 40 acres from an M-1 to a T-1 designation.

Rationale for the Decision: Forest Service policy permits Forest Plan amendments resulting from analysis conducted during Forest Plan implementation (36 CFR 219.10(f) and FSM 1922.5). The need for change was found through site specific field inspections and evaluations by IDT specialists. The existing Management Area boundary splits an 80 acre stand of 28 year old timber into two different Forest Plan allocations. The upper and lower portions of the stand are within the suitable timber base with a T-1 Management Area allocation, while the central portion (40 acres) of the stand is outside of the suitable timber base with an M-1 Management Area allocation. The 40 acres of M-1 allocation are identical to the remaining portion of the stand and are suitable for timber management. The information gathered from on-the-ground reconnaissance of the area indicates that adjusting the management area boundary to incorporate the entire stand within the T-1 Management Area allocation will allow for stocking reduction treatments to reduce competition both within tree canopies and in the root zones. I believe the Management Area boundary adjustment will provide for more appropriate and efficient management of the entire stand, based on more detailed site condition information than was available during the original Forest Planning process.

Nonsignificant NFMA Amendment: I have determined the proposed change is not a significant Forest Plan amendment since the decision will not alter the Forest multiple use goals and objectives for long term land and resource management. Through this decision the acreage change in Management Area allocations is minor and adoption of this amendment will not significantly change the Forest-wide environmental impacts disclosed in the Helena Forest Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Implementation: This decision may be implemented 7 days after the Legal Notice announcing this decision is published in the Helena Independent Record.

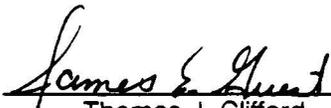
Administrative Appeal: Forest Plan amendments are subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217. The 45 day appeal period will begin upon initial publication of the Legal Notice in the Helena Independent Record. Appellants must file two copies of a Notice of Appeal with the Regional Forester, 200 East Broadway, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, Mt. 59807. It is the responsibility of those who appeal a decision to provide the reviewing officer sufficient narrative evidence and argument to show why the decision should be changed or reversed. Any appeal must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 217.9.

Contact Person:

Additional information may be obtained from:

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Thomas J. Clifford

 Forest Supervisor

8/12/93
Date