



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Black Hills
National
Forest

Mystic Ranger District
803 Soo San Drive 23939 Hwy 385
Rapid City, SD 57702 Hill City, SD 57745
605-343-1567 605-574-2534

File Code: 1950 Deerfield Project Area

Date: October 24, 2005

Greetings from your Black Hills National Forest:

Enclosed is a copy of the recently issued Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the Deerfield Project Area prepared by the Black Hills National Forest. The decision was signed October 20, 2005 by Deputy Forest Supervisor Brad Exton. The decision is to implement Alternative C, as described in the FEIS, with some modifications. Actions approved by the decision will reduce the potential for large scale Mountain Pine Beetle infestations, reduce the potential for large scale wildfire, and restore hardwoods and meadows for wildlife habitat and as natural fuel breaks. In addition, the decision will result in changes to the amount of roads available for public motorized travel in the area.

The Deerfield Project Area is approximately 41,000 acres in size and includes about 5,200 acres of interspersed private land 11 miles northwest of Hill City, South Dakota. Resource management actions associated with this decision apply to National Forest System (NFS) lands on the Mystic Ranger District only and do not include private lands.

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.14. A written appeal must be submitted within 45 days following the publication date of the legal notice of this decision in the Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, South Dakota, which is expected the week of November 14, 2005. It is the responsibility of the appellant to ensure their appeal is received in a timely manner. The publication date of the legal notice of the decision in the newspaper of record is the *exclusive* means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Appellants should not rely on date or timeframe information provided by any other source.

For further information contact me or Katie Van Alstyne of my staff at the Mystic Ranger District Office in Rapid City, South Dakota at 605-342-3132.

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert J. Thompson

ROBERT J. THOMPSON
District Ranger

Enclosure:
Deerfield Project Area FEIS and ROD

