



File Code: 1570-1 (218)
#07-01-00-0150
Date: July 5, 2007

Michael and Karina Hancock
P.O. Box 1188
Libby, MT 59923

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hancock:

I have received your objection of the Kootenai National Forest's proposed Kootenai River North Fuels Reduction Project DN (Libby Ranger District).

Regretfully, I must set aside your objection without review in accordance with 36 CFR 218. As stated in 36 CFR 218.6(a), individuals and organizations who have submitted specific written comments related to the proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction project during the opportunity for public comment provided during preparation of an environmental assessment may file an objection. For proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects described in an environmental assessment, such opportunity for public comment will be fulfilled during scoping or other public involvement opportunities.

36 CFR 218.6(b) states, comments received from an authorized representative(s) of an organization are considered those of the organization only. Individual members of that organization do not meet objection eligibility requirements solely on the basis of membership in an organization. A member or an individual must submit comments independently in order to be eligible to file an objection in an individual capacity.

36 CFR 218.8(a)(3) clearly states that the Reviewing Officer shall set aside and not review an objection when the individual or organization did not submit written comments at the appropriate time. The record for this project indicates that you did not submit written comments during scoping, at the public meetings, or on the EA. Therefore, pursuant to 36 CFR 218(a)(3) above, I am setting aside your objection.



This decision is the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture and is not subject to higher-level review (36 CFR 218.5).

Sincerely,

/s/ Ray G. Smith (for)
KATHLEEN A. MCALLISTER
Appeal Reviewing Officer

cc:
Forest Coordinator
Regional Office, Appeals