



File Code: 1570-1 (218)
#06-01-00-0012
Date: November 2, 2005

Stephen F. Siebert
Professor, Dept. of Forest Management
College of Forestry and Conservation
6310 Woods Road
Missoula, MT 59802

Dear Mr. Siebert:

I have received your objection to the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor's preferred alternative (Alternative 2) identified for the Middle East Fork Hazardous Fuels Reduction project (Sula Ranger District). The preferred alternative was published in a Legal Notice identifying the preferred alternative and the objection process on September 23, 2005.

Regretfully, I must set aside your objection without review in accordance with 36 CFR 218.8. The record for this project indicates that you did not provide written comments regarding the Middle East Fork project during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement comment period. An objection must be set aside when the individual or organization does not submit written comments during scoping or other opportunity for public comment (36 CFR 218.8(a)(3)). For proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects described in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, such opportunity for public comment will be fulfilled by the public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (36 CFR 218.6). Therefore, I am setting aside your objection because you did not comment on the proposed project during the comment period.

This decision is the final administrative review of the Department of Agriculture (36 CFR 218.5).

Sincerely,

/s/ Pam Gardiner (for)
ABIGAIL R. KIMBELL
Reviewing Officer

cc:
Responsible Official
Forest Coordinator

