



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Custer  
National  
Forest

2602 1st Avenue North  
P.O. Box 2556  
Billings, MT 59103

Reply to: 1920

Date: May 21, 1993

Dear Interested Public:

Attached are several Forest Plan amendments. A brief description of each amendment follows.

**Amendment 14** removes 459 acres of land from the suitable timber base on the Sioux Ranger District. These areas were identified in the Sioux Ranger District Fuelbreaks Project and are areas where ponderosa pine has encroached into grasslands.

*Decision  
with comment  
7/27/93*

**Amendment 15** will permit development of openings in excess of 40 acres to facilitate development of fuelbreaks as prescribed by the Sioux Ranger District Fuelbreaks project.

**Amendment 16** adds definitions of "Existing Visual Condition" to the Forest Plan. These definitions were not included in the glossary or in the text of the Forest Plan when printed.

*2/93  
copy to be  
in out  
com*

**Amendment 17** is a proposed amendment that would add four streams to be protected for further consideration under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. These streams were identified in the Forest Plan Record of Decision.

**Amendment 18** adds the name of the Whitetail area to the list of Management Area C's. This area has always been on the map but was not identified by name nor species to be managed for.

*Amendment 18 - revising table in FP to reflect current status of RNAs & SIAs*

Thank you for your continued interest in the management of the Custer National Forest.

*Go*  
  
CURTIS W. BATES  
Forest Supervisor



DECISION MEMO, NONSIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO THE  
CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST, MONTANA, NORTH DAKOTA, AND SOUTH DAKOTA  
AMENDMENT NUMBER 14, TIMBER SUITABILITY, SIOUX RANGER DISTRICT FUELBREAKS  
April 1993

**DECISION MEMO**

**Decision:** It is my decision to amend the Forest Plan to make some site specific changes in timber suitability on the Sioux Ranger District. The Sioux Ranger District developed an Environmental Assessment (EA) that addresses long-term fuels management.

**Rationale for the Decision:** The Sioux Ranger District developed a long-term fuels management program to reduce the risk of large catastrophic fires such as those that occurred in 1988. On March, 23 1992 I selected a mix of the alternatives developed in this analysis. During the course of this analysis there were a number of timber stands that were identified that need to be managed as fuel breaks to facilitate protection of the areas in the long-term from fire. I am removing some of the identified stands from the "suitable" timber base to facilitate protection of this area from catastrophic fire. Timber stands that were allocated to a prescription of fuels or wildlife management will be managed for timber production in the long-term. Regeneration time may be extended over a longer than normal period, and the total number of trees per acres will be less than optimum for timber management to facilitate fire control.

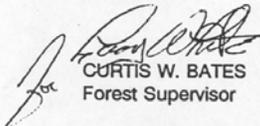
**NONSIGNIFICANT NFMA AMENDMENT:** This decision does not significantly alter any of the long-term projections for timber production on the Custer National Forest as the timber production capacity of the Forest exceeds the allowable sale quantity identified in the Forest Plan. Therefore, this amendment is non-significant under NFMA (36 CFR 219.10(f)), and Forest Service Manual 1922.51, item 1 and 3.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** This decision will be implemented upon public notice. This Decision Notice is public notice and will be sent to all those who have requested notice of Forest Plan amendments and those who have participated in the amendment process. In addition, notice of this decision will be published in local newspapers.

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL:** This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217. Any written notice of appeal to this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9, "Content of Notice of Appeal". As a minimum, a written notice of appeal filed with the reviewing officer must: 1) List the name, address, and telephone number of the appellant; 2) Identify the decision about which the requester objects; 3) Identify the document in which the decision is contained by title and subject, date of the decision, and name and title of the Deciding Officer; 4) Identify specifically that portion of the decision or decision document to which the requester objects; 5) State the reasons for objection, including issues of fact, law, regulation, or policy and if applicable specifically how the decision violates law, regulation, or policy, and ; 6) Identify the specific change(s) in the decision that the appellant seeks, (36 CFR 217.9(b)). A written notice of appeal must be filed within 45 days of the date of this decision and sent to:

US Forest Service, Northern Region  
David F. Jolly, Regional Forester  
PO Box 7669  
Missoula, MT 59801

**CONTACT PERSON:** Additional information can be obtained from:  
Custer National Forest, PO Box 2556  
Billings, Montana 59103, phone (406) 657-6361  
Leroy White, Planning Program Officer

  
CURTIS W. BATES  
Forest Supervisor

5/21/93  
Date

**Forest Plan Amendment Number 14  
Custer National Forest  
Billings, Montana**

The Custer National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Record of Decision dated June 10, 1987 will be amended as follows:

The following timber stands have been selected for management prescriptions that will not provide for long-term timber production in the Sioux Ranger District Fuels Management Plan. These stands will be removed from the "suitable" timber base for the Custer National Forest. The maps that display the location of these stands is available for review at the Sioux Ranger District Office in Camp Crook, South Dakota. The following table displays the stand number of these stands and how they will be managed by alternative.

Land Unit	Unit No.	Acres	Management Area	Alternative
Ekalaka Hills	5-28	68	B,G	Range
Ekalaka Hills	5-30	21	B	Range
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>89</b>		
Long Pines	8-02	18	B	Range
Long Pines	12-09	57	B	Range
Long Pines	19-08	9	B	Range
Long Pines	19-11	143	B,D	Range
Long Pines	19-12	3	D	Range
Long Pines	19-14	52	B	Range
Long Pines	19-17	83	B	Range
Long Pines	19-19	5	B	Range
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>370</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>459</b>		

*[Signature]*  
CURTIS W. BATES  
Forest Supervisor

5/21/93  
Date

DECISION MEMO, NONSIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO THE  
CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST, MONTANA, NORTH DAKOTA, AND SOUTH DAKOTA  
AMENDMENT NUMBER 15, SIZE OF OPENINGS, SIOUX RANGER DISTRICT  
April 1993

**DECISION MEMO**

**Decision:** It is my decision to make a site-specific amendment for size of opening to facilitate development of fuel breaks on the Sioux Ranger District. The Environmental Assessment that I approved on March 23, 1992 recommend creating openings that exceed the 40 acre maximum recommended by the Custer National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The Forest Plan and Northern Regional Guide require an amendment to allow openings (timber cutting units), under even-aged silvicultural systems in excess of 40 acres in size on suitable timber lands.

**Rationale for the Decision:** Based on the information and environmental effects disclosed in the Sioux Ranger District Fuels Management Plan it is apparent that to facilitate protection of this area from catastrophic fire in the long-term additional large scale openings are needed. The Environmental Assessment identifies the impacts and provides guidelines to mitigate possible adverse impacts on scenic values. Because there are many large natural openings there is an opportunity to blend the new openings into the natural setting and not adversely affect visual quality.

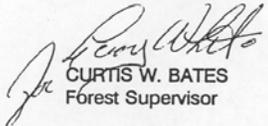
**NONSIGNIFICANT NFMA AMENDMENT:** This decision does not alter any of the long-term projections for goods or services as identified in the Forest Plan. Therefore, this amendment is non-significant under NFMA (36 CFR 219.10(f)), and Forest Service Manual 1922.51, item 1 and 3.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** This decision will be implemented upon public notice. This Decision Notice is public notice and will be sent to all those who have requested notice of Forest Plan amendments and those who have participated in the amendment process. In addition, notice of this decision will be published in local newspapers.

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL:** This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217. Any written notice of appeal to this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9, "Content of Notice of Appeal". As a minimum, a written notice of appeal filed with the reviewing officer must: 1) List the name, address, and telephone number of the appellant; 2) Identify the decision about which the requester objects; 3) Identify the document in which the decision is contained by title and subject, date of the decision, and name and title of the Deciding Officer; 4) Identify specifically that portion of the decision or decision document to which the requester objects; 5) State the reasons for objection, including issues of fact, law, regulation, or policy and if applicable specifically how the decision violates law, regulation, or policy, and ; 6) Identify the specific change(s) in the decision that the appellant seeks, (36 CFR 217.9{b}). A written notice of appeal must be filed within 45 days of the date of this decision and sent to:

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