

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

KURT J. MEISTER,)	CIVIL ACTION
)	No. 07-13008
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
TOM VILSACK, SECRETARY,)	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, <u>et al.</u> ,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	

SECOND DECLARATION OF JIM A. THOMPSON

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury:

1. I am employed by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and currently serve as the District Ranger for the Cadillac-Manistee Ranger District of the Huron-Manistee National Forests (HMNF), Manistee, Michigan. USDA has employed me for approximately 25 years. As of January 1, 2012, I supervise and oversee the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) and all activities related to the completion of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) and the Record of Decision (ROD).
2. This declaration provides information to supplement and update the information in the previous declarations submitted on January 7, 2011; February 15, 2011; April 1, 2011; May 29, 2011; July 28, 2011; September 28, 2011, November 23, 2011 and January 30, 2012. It also describes the activities that have occurred since the prior declaration.
3. The IDT, in conjunction with the Regional Forester and his staff have developed the

Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, which includes Appendix E - Response to Public Comments and the Record of Decision for the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

4. The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement was finalized and completed, and the Record of Decision was signed by the Regional Forester January 27, 2012.
5. Letters were sent on January 30, 2012 to all interested publics who requested copies of the documents, stating that a decision had been made and that the final documents are available on the Huron-Manistee National Forests' web site.
6. The final documents were provided to GPO on February 9, 2012. The GPO contractor proceeded to print the documents, create compact disks (CDs), and mail the copies of the documents and CDs, per our instructions on March 8, 2012. Packages were sent to a total of 1,419 interested publics. An additional 1,569 individuals were notified by e-mail that the documents were available online. The GPO contractor also provided the documents needed for transmittal of the FSEIS and ROD to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Four copies of the document with a cover letter were transmitted to the EPA on March 16, 2012. The IDT worked with the EPA to have the Notice of Availability (NOA) published in the Federal Register. The NOA was published in the Federal Register today March 23, 2012.
7. Following transmittal of the documents to the EPA it was brought to the Forest Service's attention that some members of the public did not receive complete packages as requested. The U.S. Postal Services in Allen Park, Michigan notified the Forest Service

that their mailing equipment damaged approximately 70 packages which were subsequently undeliverable.

8. To ensure all interested publics receive the documents they requested, a letter was sent out on March 22, 2012 to everyone on the FEIS and ROD mailing list stating that the documents have been printed and were mailed on March 8, 2012 and if they did not receive the documents or a complete package to contact the Forest Service by phone or e-mail and the documents would be forwarded on to them.
9. Thereafter, the Forest Service expects to publish a legal notice of the decision in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel sometime during the week of April 9, 2012.
10. A written notice of appeal must be filed with the Chief of the Forest Service within 45 days of the date of publication in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing (Paragraphs 1-21) are true and correct.

Executed this 23rd day of March 2012.



JIM A. THOMPSON
District Ranger
Cadillac-Manistee Ranger District
Huron-Manistee National Forests
412 Red Apple Road
Manistee, Michigan 49660