



File Code: 1920

Date: June 18, 2012

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is the Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI) for the Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) Amendment adopting the Phase 1: Forested Biological Community, Wildlife Conservation Strategy (WCS). The DN/FONSI documents my decision to select Alternative B, the Proposed Action as the Forest Plan amendment.

Key features of my decision include:

- Forest-wide wildlife standard WISTOI has been deleted and replaced by a more comprehensive and diverse set of management direction that relies on accepted conservation concepts and principles for wildlife conservation.
- Management direction has been added to emphasize retention of most forest stands that meet the definitions of old-forest habitat or the large tree size class.
- Management direction has been added to focus restoration in forested stands classified as large tree size class and medium tree size class to promote desired old forest habitat and large tree stand conditions, and to reduce hazards and risks to these habitats.
- Management direction has been added or modified to emphasize retention of large snags while balancing other objectives.
- A restoration and prioritization strategy for wildlife habitat has been added. More specifically, Forest-wide and management area direction has been modified or added to focus limited resources and funds in areas where the greatest gains can be made, recognizing both long-term goals and short-term Forest Plan objectives.

As allowed by Forest Service planning regulations at 36 CFR 219.17(b)(3), this decision is subject to the optional appeal procedures described in Appendix A to 36 CFR 219.35 of the prior planning regulation (36 CFR part 219, published at 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1, 2010). The optional appeal procedures are published at 54 FR 3357 (January 23, 1989), as amended at 54 FR 13807 (April 5, 1989); 54 FR 34509 (August 21, 1989); 55 FR 7895 (March 6, 1990); 56 FR 4918 (February 6, 1991); 56 FR 46550 (September 13, 1991); and 58 FR 58915 (November 4, 1993).

A written notice of appeal, including attachments, must be filed with the Appeal Reviewing Officer within 45 days beginning the day after the publication date of this notice in the *Times-News*, the newspaper of record. Appeals must be sent to: Appeal Reviewing Officer; USDA –



Forest Service; 324 25th Street; Ogden, UT 84401. The Notice of Appeal may alternatively be faxed to: USDA, Forest Service, (801) 625-5277, ATTN: Appeal Reviewing Officer; mailed electronically in a format of pdf, txt, rft, or document compatible with Microsoft Office applications to: appeals-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us; or hand delivered between the hours of between 8:00 am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday except legal holidays at Federal Building, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah. The notice of appeal must have an identifiable name attached, or verification of identity will be required.

A copy of the appeal must simultaneously be sent to the deciding officer: Forest Supervisor, Sawtooth National Forest; USDA - Forest Service; 2647 Kimberly Road East, Twin Falls, ID 83301.

Any notice of appeal must be fully consistent with the optional appeal procedures. At a minimum, a written notice of appeal filed with the reviewing officer must:

1. State that the document is a notice of appeal filed pursuant to 36 CFR 219.17(b)(3);
2. List the name, address, and telephone number of the appellant;
3. Identify the decision about which the requestor objects;
4. 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;
5. Identify specifically that portion of the decision or decision document to which the requester objects;
6. State the reasons for objecting, including issues of fact, law, regulation, or policy, and, if applicable, specifically how the decision violates law, regulation, or policy; and
7. Identify the specific change(s) in the decision that the appellant seeks.

The DN/FONSI and the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Appendices are posted on the Forest's Web site at <http://fs.usda.gov/sawtooth>.

For more information or for a cd copy or hard copy of the EA, please contact Sharon LaBrecque at 208-737-3200.

Sincerely,



REBECCA S. NOURSE
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures (1)