



File Code: 1570 (215)
#13-01-00-0020

Date: May 23, 2013

Michael Garrity
Alliance for the Wild Rockies
PO Box 505
Helena, MT 59624

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED
NUMBER: 7011 2970 0002 2703 5945**

Dear Mr. Garrity:

This is my decision on disposition of the appeal you filed, on behalf of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies regarding the Glacier Loon Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project Decision Notice (DN) on the Flathead National Forest.

My review of your appeal was conducted pursuant to, and in accordance with, 36 CFR 215.18 to ensure the analysis and decision are in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policy, and orders. I have reviewed the appeal record, including your arguments, the information referenced in the Forest Supervisor's April 25, 2013, transmittal letter, and the Appeal Reviewing Officer's analysis and recommendation (copy enclosed). The transmittal letter provides the specific page references to discussions in the ROD and project file, which bear upon your objections. I specifically incorporate in this decision the appeal record, the references and citations contained in the transmittal letter, and the Appeal Reviewing Officer's analysis and recommendation.

The Appeal Reviewing Officer has considered your arguments, the appeal record, and the transmittal letter and, except for an issue about water howellia appealed by Friends of the Wild Swan, recommends the Forest Supervisor's decision be affirmed and your requested relief be denied. Concerning water howellia the Appeal Reviewing Officer recommends the Forest Supervisor be directed to not implement the vegetation management activities described in the Glacier Loon project within 300 feet of occupied and unoccupied howellia ponds.

Based upon a review of the references and citations provided by the Forest Supervisor, I find your objections were adequately considered in the DN. I agree with the Appeal Reviewing Officer's analysis and conclusions in regard to your appeal objections. I find the Forest Supervisor has made a reasoned decision.



After careful consideration of the above factors, I affirm the Forest Supervisor's decision to implement the Glacier Loon project, except that no vegetation management activities described in the Glacier Loon project may be conducted within 300 feet of occupied and unoccupied howellia ponds. Your other requested relief is denied.

My decision constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture [36 CFR 215.18(c)].

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas A. Schmidt".

THOMAS A. SCHMIDT
Deputy Regional Forester

cc: Chip Weber, Joseph Krueger, Ray G Smith, Allen Byrd