

File Code: 1950

Date: August 22, 2007

Dear Interested Party:

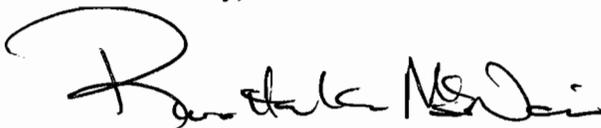
You have received this copy of the Myrtle Creek Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) Record of Decision (ROD) because you participated in the public collaboration for this project or otherwise expressed interest in activities associated with this project. As you know, the Myrtle Creek project was proposed to the Forest Service in 2004 by the City of Bonners Ferry, Boundary County and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho after 3450 acres burned in the Myrtle Creek municipal watershed during September 2003.

The Joint Powers' community collaboration effort developed and conducted under the auspices of the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI) was highly successful in the assistance the Working Group provided to help develop the fuels reduction project under the authority of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. The public collaboration process spanned more than 18 months and included public working group meetings and field trips to the project site. An additional three months was added to the public process as my staff and I continued discussions with objectors to the project.

After careful deliberation, I have selected Alternative 2 as described in this Record of Decision to implement a fuels reduction project to protect and maintain the Myrtle Creek watershed, the primary source of drinking water for the community of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. The decision authorizes thinning in overcrowded stands of trees in strategic areas in the Myrtle Creek and Snow Creek drainages in order to reduce the potential for severe wildfire effects that would negatively affect the municipal water supply. Generally speaking, the larger, healthier trees that are naturally more fire-resistant will be left. Hazardous fuel reduction treatments will be applied to approximately 1353 acres within the Myrtle Creek watershed. Approximately 295 acres and 125 acres lie within the Kootenai Peak and Selkirk Inventoried Roadless Areas, respectively. I am deferring Units B1, B3, B6, and G9. No new roads will be constructed anywhere within the project area or within inventoried roadless areas.

The Final EIS for this project was released in late March and the legal notice was published in the Coeur d' Alene Press on April 9, 2007. The formal objections that were filed during the objection process have been reviewed and the Reviewing Officer provided written responses to the objectors on June 11, 2007. Under the authority of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (35 CFR 218.11), implementation of this decision may occur immediately.

Sincerely,



RANOTTA K. MCNAIR
Forest Supervisor

Attachments: Myrtle Creek HFRA Project Record of Decision (ROD)
ROD Attachment A – Substantive Objections and Agency Responses

