



File Code: 1950 - NEPA

Date: May 30, 2006

Hello,

We have completed the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) and Record of Decision for the West Gold Project. It is now available in compact disc (CD) format, paper format, and on our Internet website at www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/eco/manage/nepa/index.html.

Most of you are receiving or viewing a copy of the FSEIS in the same format that you received the Draft SEIS. If you would like a paper copy of the Summary, the full FEIS, or both, please don't hesitate to contact A.J. Helgenberg, the project team leader at the Sandpoint Ranger District office. Albert can be contacted by phone at 208-265-6643 or by e-mail at ajhelgenberg@fs.fed.us.

Four alternatives (Alternatives A through D) were developed in response to major issues identified during our environmental analysis. Alternative A (No Action) would defer all activities that are not part of current management in the area. Alternative B (the Proposed Action) would accomplish the proposed activities described above. Alternative C proposes the same activities as Alternative B, but without any road construction. Alternative D would use mostly selective cutting methods to achieve our vegetation objectives and would build a minimal amount of new road. After reviewing all public comments and the Final SEIS, **I have decided to implement Alternative C with a minor modification** that includes constructing 850 feet of road and a helicopter landing. Please read the Record of Decision for more details on my rationale for selection Alternative C. I encourage you to read the Summary for a good overview of the EIS.

If you commented on the Draft SEIS, thank you for taking the time to do so. You will find our responses to your comments in Appendix J of the Final SEIS.

A Notice of Availability should be published in the Federal Register the week of June **7th, 2006**. A legal advertisement will also be published in the Spokesman review on or around May 31, 2006. This decision is subject to appeal for 45 days following the date of the legal ad in the Spokesman Review. No activities can begin for at least 15 days following the close of the appeal period. Details about appeal regulations are outlined on page 30 of the Record of Decision.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact A.J. Helgenberg, the project team leader at (208) 265-6643.

Sincerely,

Ranotta K. McNair

RANOTTA K. MCNAIR
Forest Supervisor

