



File Code: 1950-3

Date: December 15, 2006

Dear Reader:

We have completed the Emerald Creek Garnet Area Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), and I signed the record of decision on December 15, 2006. The documents are available on compact disc (CD), printed on paper, and on the IPNF website at www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/eco/manage/nepa/index.html. If you would like to receive the documents in a format different from those included with this letter please contact the St. Joe Ranger District at (208) 245-2531.

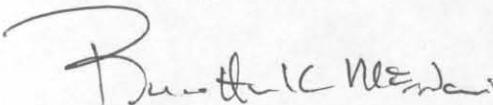
After considering three alternatives in detail, I have decided to implement Alternative B as described in the FEIS and Record of Decision. With Alternative B, the Forest Service will continue operations at the Garnet Area in 281 Gulch until the garnet resource is depleted (approximately two to four years), then we will move the operations to Garnet Gulch. Vehicle access to the site in Garnet Gulch will be restricted. Alternative A would close the garnet area after the garnet resources in 281 Gulch are depleted. Alternative C is similar to Alternative B except it would allow most vehicles to park at the operations site in Garnet Gulch. The Emerald Creek Garnet Area Record of Decision explains my reasons for selecting Alternative B.

I received many comments on the Draft EIS, and I appreciate the time you took to help me understand your interests and concerns about the garnet area. Appendix B of the FEIS includes comments on the Draft EIS and our responses.

A legal notice of my decision will be published in the *Spokesman-Review* on or around December 27, 2006. A Notice of Availability will also be published in the Federal Register on or around January 5, 2007. This decision is subject to appeal for 45 days following the date the legal notice is published in the *Spokesman-Review*. The Record of Decision gives details about appeal regulations.

If you have questions, please call the St. Joe Ranger District at (208)245-2531.

Sincerely,


RANOTTA K. MCNAIR
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

