

Scoping/Notice of Opportunity to Comment
for
Leroux Creek Aspen Management

March 2009

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INTRODUCTION

Comments are being solicited on two proposed timber sales in the East Leroux Creek watershed on the Grand Valley Ranger District, Grand Mesa National Forest. This area, known as the Leroux Creek analysis area, is approximately 60 miles southeast of Grand Junction, Colorado and is located in Delta County (**Map 1: Vicinity Map**). The legal description of the proposed timber sales includes Section 24 of T.12 S., R.93W., and Sections 19, 30, 31, and 32 of T.12S., R.92W., 6th Prime Meridian.

This document and attached maps provide detailed information about the purpose and need, proposed action, alternatives to the proposed action and the decision framework. This document will serve as both scoping under the requirements of NEPA, and the opportunity to comment period required at 36 CFR 215.3. Legal notice of this opportunity to comment will be published in the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel. Comments concerning this proposal must be received by the Forest Service 60 days from the publication date of the legal notice.

An additional opportunity to comment on this proposal will be provided during a public field trip to be held in June or July of 2009. The purpose of the field trip will be to provide a forum for an open discussion regarding aspen management in the Leroux Creek area and to provide an educational opportunity with such partners as Colorado State University and the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of this proposal is to:

- Regenerate through commercial clearcutting aspen stands that are impacted by Sudden Aspen Decline (SAD).
- Promote a diversity of structural stages among the aspen stands within the Leroux Creek analysis area.
- Increase the patch size of regenerating aspen stands and break up the landscape “patchiness” of past harvest activities.
- Contribute towards providing commercial forest products to local timber industries.

This action is needed because currently the Leroux Creek analysis area is dominated by mature to over-mature aspen stands that are in a declining condition due to insects and diseases. In 2008, US Forest Service insect and disease aerial surveys indicated that approximately 34 percent (2,423 acres) of the aspen cover type in the analysis area were impacted by sudden aspen decline (SAD). SAD is the rapid deterioration of aspen stands, in terms of crown dieback and stem mortality, attributed to the following group of biotic agents: Cytospora canker (usually caused by *Valsa sordida*), aspen bark beetles (*Trypophloeus populi* and *Procryphalus mucronatus*), poplar borer (*Saperda calcarata*), and bronze poplar borer (*Agrilus liragus*) (Worrall et al., 2007). In stands with heavy mortality attributed to SAD, Worrall et al. (2007) found sucker densities at or below the range typical of uncut stands, indicating that there has been little to no suckering response

to the overstory mortality. There is a need to regenerate aspen stands before the ability of root suckering is lost.

SAD does not appear to be affecting young immature aspen stands (early seral development stages). The Leroux Creek area lacks early seral aspen stands that are in a healthy and vigorous condition. Past timber harvest activities, from 1992, did begin the process to regenerate some mature aspen stands but in the process created small patches of regenerating aspen stands. There is a need to create larger patch sizes of regenerating aspen for future late seral interior wildlife habitat.

Aspen is a commercial timber species that is processed by local timber industries. A commercial timber sale would contribute to local timber industries and be the means to economically regenerate aspen stands.

PROPOSED ACTION

- Harvest 444 acres of mature aspen under two commercial timber sales: Duke Basin II and Leroux Creek timber sales. The harvest prescription would be coppice cut (clearcutting) with natural regeneration. The harvest of this timber is expected to produce approximately 12,300 CCF of timber product. The method used to remove timber would be by tractor or other ground based systems. See **Tables 1 - 3** for a summary and **Map 2: Proposed Action** for the specific location of sale areas and harvest units.
- Principal access would be from National Forest System Roads (NFSRs) 128 128.1G, and 128.1J. NFSR 128.1J would need 1.1 miles of reconstruction to improve drainage and creek crossings. New specified road construction would total 0.8 miles and new temporary road construction would total approximately 2.2 miles. Approximately 2.9 miles of closed road would be reopened.
- All specified roads, temporary roads and reopened roads would be closed and obliterated after completion of the timber sale.

The purpose of constructing temporary roads, and reconstructing or re-opening existing roads is to access forest stands to be harvested. Although the analysis area currently has roads in place, some stands or portions of stands proposed for harvest are not adjacent to existing roads and some existing roads do not meet standards or conditions necessary for hauling timber. The purpose of closing and/or obliterating any new roads or re-opened roads after harvest is to reduce future maintenance costs, reduce sediment delivery to water courses, and to regulate overall open road density to maintain wildlife habitat quality.

This proposed action responds to the goals and objectives described in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests Amended Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and moves the project area towards desired conditions (Forest Plan pages III-1 through III-5). Specifically, the Forest Plan goal for vegetation is to “manage vegetation in a manner to provide and maintain a healthy and vigorous ecosystem resistant to insects, diseases and other natural and human causes. Management of vegetation will be done primarily through the commercial timber sale program for tree species located on lands suited for timber production.” Furthermore, the

timber sale is located within Forest Plan management area 7A and 6B, which has an emphasis on wood fiber production and livestock grazing. Vegetation within 7A and 6B management areas are managed to enhance plant and animal diversity.

Table 1: Proposed Action Summary			
	Duke Basin II Timber Sale	Leroux Creek Timber Sale	Total
Harvest acreage	198 acres	246 acres	444 acres
Harvest volume	5,500 CCF	6,800 CCF	12,300 CCF
Year of Sale	2010	2011	
Road Reconstruction (NFSR 128.1J)	N/A	1.1 miles	1.1 miles
New Specified Road Construction	0.1 miles	0.7 miles	0.8 miles
New Temporary Road Construction	1.4 miles	0.8 miles	2.2 miles
Reopen Closed Roads	2.9 miles	N/A	2.9 miles
Road Closure/Obliteration	4.4 miles	1.5 miles	5.9 miles

Table 2: Duke Basin II Timber Sale					
Unit	Acres	Prescription	Volume (CCF)	Method	Slash Disposal
1	40	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	1080	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
2	39	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	1053	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
3	11	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	297	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
4	30	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	810	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
5	39	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	1207	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
6	18	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	486	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
7	21	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	567	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
TOTAL	198		5500		

Table 3: Leroux Creek Timber Sale					
Unit	Acres	Prescription	Volume (CCF)	Method	Slash Disposal
1	19	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	522	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
2	18	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	495	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
3	29	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	798	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
4	32	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	880	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
5	39	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	1072	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
6	38	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	1045	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
7	31	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	852	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
8	40	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	1136	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
TOTAL	246		6800		

ISSUES AND THE SCOPING PROCESS

The Scoping Process

As previously mentioned the scoping process required under NEPA is running concurrently with the opportunity to comment required at 36 CFR 215.3. The purpose of scoping and the 60 day comment period is not only to identify a list of issues and concerns regarding this proposal, but also to determine substantial issues to be analyzed in depth.

Preliminary Issues

The Leroux Creek interdisciplinary team has identified preliminary issues based on professional knowledge about the analysis area. Additional issues will be considered following an analysis of public comments.

Issue 1. Structural Diversity

There is a lack of early seral aspen stands in the Leroux Creek analysis area. Ninety-one percent of the aspen is classified in a mature to over-mature structural stage. One purpose of the timber sales is to promote a diversity of structural stages by regenerating aspen stands. Past harvest activities have resulted in small isolated patches of regenerating aspen. Another purpose of the timber sales is to increase the patch size of regenerating aspen for future late seral interior wildlife habitat.

Issue 2. Sudden Aspen Decline (SAD)

In 2008, US Forest Service insect and disease aerial surveys indicated that approximately 34 percent (2,423 acres) of the aspen cover type in the analysis area were impacted by

SAD. In stands with heavy mortality attributed to SAD, Worrall et al. (2007) found sucker densities at or below the range typical of uncut stands, indicating that there has been little to no suckering response to the overstory mortality. One purpose of the timber sales is to regenerate stands before the ability of root suckering is lost.

Issue 3. Timber

Aspen is a commercial timber species that is processed by local timber industries. Currently there are four lumber mills in southwestern Colorado that process aspen from the GMUG National Forest. Commercial timber sales would contribute to local timber industries and be the means to economically regenerate aspen stands.

Issue 4. Water Quality

The Leroux Creek analysis area is the domestic water supply for the town of Hotchkiss. Timber sales and road development may affect surface water quality parameters.

Issue 5. Management Indicator Species

Timber sales and road development may affect Management Indicator Species (MIS) and/or their habitat. The red-naped sapsucker and northern goshawk are MIS for aspen habitat, particularly mature aspen habitat. During some stages of these species lifecycle they use large areas of late seral aspen. One purpose of the timber sales is to increase the patch size of regenerating aspen for future late seral interior wildlife habitat.

Issue 6. Threatened / Endangered / Proposed / Candidate / Sensitive Species

Timber sales and road development may affect Threatened/Endangered/Proposed/Candidate/Sensitive Species (TES) and/or their habitat. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Forest Service policy require the assessment of potential effects of proposed agency actions on species that are listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA, or as Sensitive by the Regional Forester (FSM 2670). The species that are present or that have potentially suitable habitats in and adjacent to the analysis area will be analyzed in-depth in Chapter 3 of the EA, in a Biological Assessment (BA) prepared to meet the requirements of section 7 of the ESA for federally-listed species, and a Biological Evaluation (BE) to meet Forest Service policy for Sensitive species.

DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

A range of alternatives will be developed in the environmental assessment (EA) that meet the purpose and need of the proposed action and respond to significant issues. The interdisciplinary team has identified potential alternatives that will be considered in detail in the EA. These alternatives are briefly described below. Additional alternatives may be developed based upon additional issues and/or alternatives that are generated from public comments on this proposal.

Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

This alternative is the proposed action previously described. It is the initial proposal developed to meet the purpose and need.

Alternative 2 (No Action)

NEPA requires the consideration of a “no action” alternative (40 CFR 1502.14d) where none of the proposed activities identified in the proposed action would occur. This alternative provides a baseline for comparison to aid in determining the relevance of issues and effects of the proposed projects. Under Alternative 2, timber harvest and road construction and reconstruction would not occur.

DRAFT Alternative 3

This alternative addresses the issues of structural diversity, SAD and management indicator species habitat. Under this alternative the individual size of harvest units would not be limited to 40 acres as provided in 36 CFR 219.27(d) and the GMUG’s Forest Plan (page III-43). Larger harvest units would allow more treatment of SAD-impacted stands to occur in one entry. In additional larger harvest units provide late seral interior wildlife habitat in the future.

This alternative also considers using prescribed fire to treat large areas of SAD that are inaccessible or have little commercial value to support a timber sale. SAD-impacted stands that could feasibly carry a fire would be treated with the management objective to naturally regenerate aspen.

See **Tables 4 - 6** for a complete alternative summary and **Map 3: Alternative 3** for the specific location of units.

	Duke Basin II Timber Sale	Leroux Creek Timber Sale	Total
Harvest acreage	266 acres	312 acres	578 acres
Harvest volume	7,400 CCF	8,730 CCF	16,130 CCF
Year of Sale	2010	2011	
Road Reconstruction (NFSR 128.1J)	N/A	1.1 miles	1.1 miles
New Specified Road Construction	0.1 miles	0.7 miles	0.8 miles
New Temporary Road Construction	1.4 miles	0.8 miles	2.2 miles
Reopen Closed Roads	2.9 miles	N/A	2.9 miles
Road Closure/Obliteration	4.4 miles	1.5 miles	5.9 miles
Prescribed fire	554 acres	454 acres	1008 acres

**Table 5: Duke Basin II Timber Sale
Alternative 3**

Unit	Acres	Prescription	Volume (CCF)	Method	Slash Disposal
1	18	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	500	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
2	65	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	1820	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
3	47	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	1300	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
4	21	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	580	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
5	115	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	3200	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
6	171	Stand Replacement Fire w/ natural regeneration		Prescribed Fire	
7	383	Stand Replacement Fire w/ natural regeneration		Prescribed Fire	
TOTAL	820		7,400		

**Table 6: Leroux Creek Timber Sale
Alternative 3**

Unit	Acres	Prescription	Volume (CCF)	Method	Slash Disposal
1	19	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	530	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
2	88	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	2460	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
3	72	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	2010	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
4	36	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	1010	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
5	31	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	870	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
6	66	Coppice cut w/ natural regeneration	1850	Ground based system	Lop & scatter
7	92	Stand Replacement Fire w/ natural regeneration		Prescribed Fire	
8	128	Stand Replacement Fire w/ natural regeneration		Prescribed Fire	
9	234	Stand Replacement Fire w/ natural regeneration		Prescribed Fire	
TOTAL	766		8730		

DRAFT Project Design Features

The following set of draft project design features and activities are being considered by the interdisciplinary team. These design features would be an integral part of all action alternatives developed. Standard direction found in Forest Service Handbooks, Forest Plan standard and guidelines and standard timber sale contract provisions would also be incorporated into all action alternatives. Additional design features or modifications to the following list of design features may be considered based upon public comments and further analysis on this proposal.

Air Quality

- Any potential burning would be conducted in a manner that complies with State of Colorado air quality guidelines.

Cultural Resources

- Locations of known cultural resource sites needing protection would be shown on internal working maps not subject to disclosure and/or identified on the ground so that these areas are avoided and protected during all phases of project implementation.
- If any new cultural resource sites are discovered during implementation, project activities would stop and the archeologist would be contacted immediately. The archeologist would evaluate the site and determine how the site would be protected.

Fuels

- If needed defer grazing in some pastures to increase fine fuels for successful burning operations.

Noxious Weeds

- A noxious weed inventory would take place prior to implementation of earth-moving activities. Any infestations of weeds would be treated prior to implementation by the Forest Service. All treatments of noxious weeds would follow the 2005 Grand Valley Ranger District Noxious Weed Treatment Decision Notice.
- The timber sale purchaser would not move any “Off-Road Equipment”, which last operated in an area that is infested with one or more invasive species of concern onto timber sale areas without having first taken reasonable measures to make each such piece of equipment free of soil, seeds, vegetative matter, or other debris that could contain or hold seeds.
- Disturbed areas, such as roads, landings, and skid trails, would be revegetated with approved certified weed-free seed mixes to prevent soil erosion and/or establishment of noxious weeds. Certification tags that are removed from the seed mixture would be provided to the timber sale administrator or engineering representative. Seeding is the responsibility of the purchaser and would be

accomplished during the first seeding season immediately following completion of activity in an area.

- The Forest Service would designate the seed mixture to be used. Appropriate substitutions can be made and are at the discretion of the rangeland management specialist based on availability at the time the seed is to be purchased.

Other Facilities and Special Uses

- Timber harvesting activities would be conducted in such a manner as to protect fences, ditches, structures, and other facilities within the analysis area.

Recreation

- Unless waived in writing by the District Ranger and timber sale administrator, on NFSR 128 and NFSR 128.1G, no log hauling or snowplowing would be allowed:
 - All day on Saturday and Sunday from November 15th through March 31st.
 - All day Thanksgiving Day, the following Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
 - All day December 24 through January 1.
 - All day on the federal holidays of Martin Luther King Day and Presidents Day.
 - From November 15th through March 31st, the following signs would be posted: “Road Closed to Public Vehicles: Sat – Sun, Holidays, and December 24 – January 1”; “No Snowmobiles Monday – Friday except Holidays and December 24 – January 1”; and “Road Plowed Ahead”.
 - From November 15th through March 31st the Forest Service would issue a closure order for public vehicles and snowmobile use on effected sections of NFSR 128 and 128.1G for the time periods stated above.
- During snowplowing operations, the timber purchaser would leave no less than four inches of snow on the roads and would provide a smooth travel surface. Roads would be plowed wide enough so that snowmobiles and log trucks can pass or turnouts would be plowed open. When snowplowing creates berms along designated snowmobile trails or at the junctions of designated snowmobile trails, the purchaser would remove the berms so that snowmobile riders can safely enter and exit trails.

Silviculture

- Regenerating clearcuts would be protected from excessive livestock grazing through such means as salting away from harvest units, using range riders to keep livestock out of units, resting pastures or using electric fences. The method used would be based on the intensity of grazing and coordinated between the rangeland management specialist and silviculturist.
- Closed roads would not be used as livestock driveways and no salting of roads within harvest units would be allowed.
- No more than 40% to 50% of the ground surface would be covered in large cull logs. Excessive amounts of cull logs would be piled at the landings for future

burning. A minimum of 8 to 12 tons per acre of large cull logs would be scattered through the harvest units.

Snag Habitat and Down Woody Debris

- Maintain 90 to 225 snags per 100 acres, 10 inches in diameter at breast height (dbh) or greater (where biologically feasible).
- Prior to beginning project activities, survey for and mark as wildlife leave trees those snags containing nest cavities and other signs of wildlife use.
- Maintain 10 to 20 tons of logs and other down woody material per acre, where it exists, for species dependant on this material for their habitat.

Soil and Water

- The area detrimentally impacted by tractor yarding would be limited to less than 15 percent of each cutting unit (WCPH 14.1 - Standard 13). If more than 15 percent of a cutting unit is detrimentally impacted then the purchaser would be required to rip skid trails.
- Operation of heavy equipment associated with timber harvest activities would avoid all wetlands.
- All perennial and intermittent streams, lakes, reservoirs, and designated wetlands, would be shown on sale area maps.
- The number of roads, skid trails, and landings would be kept to the minimum number, width, and total length needed to accomplish the timber harvesting and fuels reduction activities. Skid trails and temporary roads would follow existing travelways to the extent feasible. The amount of cut and fill slopes shall be kept to a minimum by designing roads to fit the terrain and avoiding toes of slopes or earth flow lobes.
- Soil disturbing actions would be avoided during long periods of heavy rain or wet soils to prevent excessive rutting and mobilization of sediment during runoff events. Operation of heavy equipment within harvest units would occur when the soil moisture is below the plastic limit or protected by at least one foot of packed snow or two inches of frozen soil to prevent excessive compaction.
- Cross-drain spacing would follow the maximum cross-drain spacing guidelines listed in the column of Exhibit 01, WCPH 13.3 - Standard 11. This is the maximum spacing and would be reduced if warranted by on-site factors such as road use, slope stability, and erosion hazard, filter capability to trap runoff and sediment, and conservation of ground cover integrity. Cross-drainage structures would include water bars, rolling dips, or ditch relief pipes. These structures would be designed to empty into stable slopes that disperse runoff into vegetation or slash (filter strips).
- During road construction, initial clearing operations would fully contain material on-site and not allow material to move into the water influence zone (WIZ). Excess excavated material, construction debris, and other new slash developed along roads near streams would be disposed of in an area outside of the riparian

area and floodplain. Disposal methods include creating filter windrows, piling and burning, disposing inside the cutting units, or disposal by other means agreed to by the timber sale administrator or engineering representative.

- Ground disturbance would be minimized to the extent possible within the WIZ of perennial and intermittent streams. No harvesting would occur within the WIZ. Temporary roads or skid trails necessary to cross the WIZ or access logs would be designated and approved by the timber sale administrator, within 100 feet of the channel or ordinary high water shoreline. Crossings by roads or skid trails would be perpendicular to the channel. No skid trail would be permitted which parallels the stream within the 100 foot buffer. At least one end of the log would be suspended during skidding in the WIZ. Trees would be felled in a way that protects vegetation in the WIZ from damage.
- Mechanical ground disturbance in or immediately adjacent to ephemeral drainages would be avoided. Crossing of these drainages would be permitted on designated skid trails and temporary roads as described immediately above.

Slash Treatment Operations

- Tops and limbs would be lopped and scattered in the harvest units to a maximum depth of 24 inches.
- Landing piles and cull decks would be clean of dirt and other noncombustible debris.
- Landing piles and cull decks would be burned by the Forest Service.
- Stumps would be cut to a maximum height of 12 inches.

Travel Management and Roads

- Road Maintenance: NFSRs would be maintained by the timber sale purchaser commensurate with use. This would include a deposit for surface rock replacement (gravel) on roads with a gravel surface (NFSR 128 and 128.1G). Existing NFSRs currently open for use would also receive pre-haul maintenance depending upon on their condition and the needs of the project. Pre-haul maintenance would not include road reconstruction or repairs of an extraordinary nature but would include maintenance of drainage structures, grading the road surface, corrections to cut/fill failures, etc.
- Temporary Roads: Roads constructed for temporary access into a harvest unit would be guided by the classic principles of temporary road construction requirements and would be consistent with the Watershed Conservation Practices Handbook. As necessary to attain stabilization of roadbed and fill slopes of temporary roads, the purchaser would employ such measures as out-sloping, drainage dips, and water-spreading ditches. These roads serve no long-term need as a road; therefore, they would be closed and obliterated by the purchaser after use.
- Temporary roads would be closed to public use by a closure order and signs during the life of the timber sale. Temporary roads would be physically blocked at the end of each operating season.

- Obliteration of temporary roads would include: removal of bridges and culverts; elimination of ditches, ruts and berms; recontouring the roadbed; effectively blocking the road to normal vehicular traffic where feasible under existing terrain conditions; and, building cross ditches and water bars, as staked or otherwise marked on the ground by the timber sale administrator. When bridges and culverts are removed, associated fills shall also be removed to the extent necessary to permit normal maximum flow of water and to restore the channel profile.
- Re-construction of NFSR 128.1J road would be consistent with the Watershed Conservation Practices Handbook. Re-construction activities could include installing hardened fords at East Leroux Creek and Doughty Creek, replacing or installing proper sized culverts to facilitate drainage, and reconstructing or installing dips and ditches to provide surface drainage. In rolling dips that show signs of instability or erosion problems, the bottoms of these structures would be rocked with 1-to-3-inch diameter size rock to reinforce soils and reduce or eliminate rutting and siltation. Wet spots on roads would also be rocked. Sediment filtering practices would be used where roads cross drainages and/or ditches to keep sediment from entering drainages. Erosion control structures would be maintained regularly, concurrent with construction operations. Reconstruction work would be a part of the Specified Road Package.
- All road locations would be designed to minimize erosion by avoiding excessive grades (more than 12 percent) for long stretches (more than 200 feet).
- Timber sale purchasers would be required to develop and implement a specific Traffic Control Plan prior to commencing timber sale operations. The Traffic Control Plan would be approved by the timber sale administrator.
- Timber sale purchasers would be required to furnish, install and maintain all temporary traffic controls that provide Forest users with adequate warning of hazardous or potentially hazardous conditions associated with timber sale activities.

Wildlife / Fisheries

- On-going surveys for amphibians and raptors (particularly northern goshawk) would be conducted prior to timber harvest and road construction/reconstruction operations, to determine locations of individuals or populations of these species and allow for the implementation of design criteria as appropriate.
- No active or inactive goshawk nests have been found in the timber sale area. If a nest is discovered then no activities shall be allowed within ¼ mile of an active northern goshawk nest from March 1 to July 31 if they would cause nesting failure or abandonment (Forest Plan standard and guideline). Around goshawk nests, a 30-acre no-harvest buffer would be provided.
- Wet areas (seeps, ponds, springs) within harvest units would be avoided by leaving small islands of leave trees to prevent disturbance of these areas.

Submitting Comments

The comment period will end 60 days from the publication date of a legal notice in the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel. The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide early and meaningful participation on a proposed action prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. Those who provide comments during the comment period provided at 40 CFR 1503.1 are eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted. Comments can be received at the following places:

Written Comments via the U.S. Postal Service or hand delivered:
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Connie Clementson, Grand Valley District Ranger 2777 Crossroads Blvd Unit 1 Grand Junction, CO 81506 Attention: Leroux Creek Aspen Management
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Written Comments via e-mail:

To: comments-rocky-mountain-gmug-grande-valley@fs.fed.us Subject: Leroux Creek Aspen Management
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Written Comments via facsimile:
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(970) 263-5819 Attention: Leroux Creek Aspen Management
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Oral Comments via telephone or in person during business hours (8am – 5pm, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays):

Connie Clementson, Grand Valley District Ranger 2777 Crossroads Blvd Unit 1 Grand Junction, Colorado 81506 (970) 242-8211
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Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone or in person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meetings) that is designed to elicit public comments. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc). In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Only those who submit timely and substantive comments will have eligibility to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6.

For further information please contact Carol McKenzie at (970) 874-6618 or cmckenzie@fs.fed.us.