

DECISION NOTICE

and

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Environmental Assessment for Wolverine Timber Sale

U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests
Norwood Ranger District
Montrose County, Colorado

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Introduction

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for Wolverine Timber Sale, prepared June 2008, documents the analysis of a vegetation management project that will harvest timber in the Uncompahgre National Forest, Norwood Ranger District, Montrose County, Colorado. Specifically, the Wolverine Timber Sale occurs in T47N., R13W., Sections 22 and 23; and T47N., R12W., Sections 29, 30 and 31 of the New Mexico Principal Meridian. The purpose of this Decision Notice is to document the management alternative I have selected for the Wolverine Timber Sale and the rationale for my decision.

Wolverine Timber Sale Purpose and Need

The purpose of Wolverine Timber Sale is to:

- Apply silvicultural treatments to sudden aspen decline affected stands in the Wolverine Project Area through commercial clearcutting to move them toward a healthy, regenerated state.
- Better understand, through monitoring, the relationship between sudden decline and regeneration response to clearcutting.
- To promote ecosystem resilience by providing a diversity of age classes among aspen stands in the area.
- Provide commercial forest products to local timber industries.

This action is needed before root systems die due to sudden aspen decline and lose their ability to regenerate. Aspen is a commercial timber species that is processed by local timber industries. A commercial timber sale will contribute to local timber industries and be the means to economically regenerate aspen stands.

To accomplish the purpose and need, the EA describes the analysis of two alternatives that would harvest between 177 and 210 acres, yielding between 4,700 and 5,600 hundred cubic feet (ccf). A no action alternative was also considered in the EA.

To access aspen stands and accommodate the hauling of logs, the EA considered re-opening approximately 1.5 miles of closed roads and between 1.0 and 1.2 miles of temporary road construction. New temporary roads will be obliterated after the timber sale is complete and re-opened roads will be closed.

Decision

I have reviewed the EA and Project Record, including Response to Comments, the Biological Evaluations, and the Biological Assessment. It is my decision to implement Alternative 2 as described below and depicted on the attached map. Alternative 2 will regenerate 33 more acres of aspen than Alternative 3 and utilize approximately 600 additional ccf of fiber.

Alternative 2 will treat approximately 210 acres (**Table 1**). Approximately 5,600 CCF will be offered for sale. The even-aged silvicultural system of clearcutting (coppice cutting) will be implemented. To access aspen harvest units and accommodate the hauling of logs, approximately 1.5 miles of closed roads will be re-opened and about 1.2 miles of new temporary road will be constructed. New temporary roads will be obliterated and re-opened roads will be closed after the sale is complete.

Unit	Acres	Method of cut	Volume (CCF)	Logging Method	Slash Disposal
29	73	Coppice/clearcut	2072	Ground based system	Lop & scatter/pile & burn
43	35	Coppice/clearcut	871	Ground based system	Lop & scatter/pile & burn
432	31	Coppice/clearcut	772	Ground based system	Lop & scatter/pile & burn
431	38	Coppice/clearcut	946	Ground based system	Lop & scatter/pile & burn
50	33	Coppice/clearcut	965	Ground based system	Lop & scatter/pile & burn
TOTAL	210		5626		

Design Criteria: The primary source of design criteria for this project is standard direction found in timber sale contract provisions, the Watershed Conservation Practices Handbook for Best Management Practices (FSH 2509.25 Chapter 2) and standards and guidelines in the Forest Plan (pages III-9a through III-188). Additional design criteria come from technical specialists on the interdisciplinary team and are project-specific. The following design criteria come from both sources.

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.

Noxious Weeds

- The Forest Service would conduct a noxious weed inventory in and around the power line units prior to implementation of earth-moving activities. Any infestations of weeds would be treated prior to implementation by the Forest Service. A treatment is funded and scheduled for the 2008 field season.
- The timber sale contract requires that the timber sale purchaser 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. The purchaser must advise the Forest Service of measures taken to clean Off-Road Equipment and arrange for Forest Service inspection

prior to such equipment being placed in service or moved from cutting units infested with invasive species of concern to units that are free of such invasive species.

- Disturbed areas, such as roads, landings, and skid trails, would be revegetated by the purchaser 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 following list displays the Forest Service designated seed mixture to be used, although appropriate substitutions can be made at the discretion of the Forest Service.

• Species of seed	• PLS % by weight % of mix
• Slender Wheatgrass	• 20
• Muttongrass	• 5
• Letterman's Needlegrass	• 20
• Fringed Brome	• 20
• American Vetch	• 35

Range

- A consequence of the post-harvest fence construction in unit 29 is the possible displacement of livestock into the meadow west of the unit. To avert this possible use change, the Forest Service will supply materials and the livestock permittee will relocate the existing fence to the west to restrict cattle from the riparian area. Also, the existing pasture fence inside unit 29 will be removed by the Forest Service before logging occurs.
- Excessive livestock browse pressure can reduce the likelihood of aspen regeneration success. In annual permittee meetings, the rangeland management specialist will instruct the permittee to place salt blocks away from regenerating areas and to ride the allotment frequently enough to assure that excessive livestock browse does not occur.
- The rangeland management specialist will monitor the permittee's compliance with this instruction and the silviculturist will monitor regeneration condition. If monitoring indicates livestock are adversely affecting regeneration success¹, the Forest Service will

¹ "adverse effects" is defined as any area three acres or greater in size where the height of regeneration outside monitoring exclosures is less than 85 percent of the regeneration height within exclosures and livestock are the most significant browse

fund through K-V, appropriated funds, or non-federal funds and install fence to exclude livestock from regeneration.

- The Forest Service will treat the existing spotted knapweed infestation in the summer of 2008 before sale operations begin. The K-V plan will include funding necessary for monitoring and treatment of noxious weeds for five years after sale closure. Additionally, the timber sale contract requires disturbed areas to be protected from establishment of noxious weeds and incorporates seed mixtures that meet the required specifications.

Recreation and Lands

An unsurveyed private land parcel of 160 acres is located directly to the south of unit 50. Barring a better understanding of the actual land line location, the Forest Service would determine the private land line on the ground as it is shown on the EA map and establish the unit 50 southern boundary parallel to and 25 to 50 feet north of this line.

If the Forest Service approves snow plowing and winter hauling on this project, the following will apply:

- Unless waived in writing by the District Ranger and timber sale administrator, on NFSR 402, NFSR 540 and NFSR 603, no log hauling or snowplowing would be allowed:
 - All day on Saturday and Sunday from November 30th 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 30th through March 31st, the purchaser would be required to post the following signs: “Road Closed to Wheeled 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 30th through March 31st the Forest Service would issue a closure order for public vehicles and snowmobile use on effected sections of roads 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 to their full widths so that public vehicles and log trucks can pass or turnouts would be plowed open. Where 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.
- If winter hauling and plowing occur, an agreement between the purchaser and the Uncompahgre Valley Trail Riders snowmobile group will be negotiated and approved.

Silviculture

- The Forest Service will fund and install a fence system around unit 29 capable of excluding both livestock and big game following completion of harvest activities, continuing until regeneration is established – a period of about five years. The Forest Service may choose to experiment with different fencing methods.
- K-V funds would be used to conduct annual stocking surveys in each of the sale units for five years after harvest. K-V funds would be used to install two elk monitoring exclosures and one cattle monitoring exclosure in each of the four Wolverine units near the power line following harvest or the year after.

Down Woody Debris / Slash Treatment

- A minimum of ten tons per acre of material greater than five inches in diameter would be left for purposes of maintaining desirable soil characteristics and to provide habitat features for certain desirable organisms,
- Where woody debris loading exceeds about thirty tons (2,300 cubic feet) per acre, slash would be piled by the purchaser for later burning by the Forest Service. To reduce soil disturbance and the soil erosion and noxious weed establishment that can arise from it, piling would be accomplished with a grapple piler rather than a conventional bulldozer.
- Tops and limbs would be lopped and scattered in harvest units to a maximum depth of 24 inches.
- Landing piles and cull decks would be burned by the Forest Service.
- Individual landing piles and cull decks would not exceed 2000 ft³.
- Stumps would be cut to a maximum height of 12 inches.

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 skid trails would be ripped to eliminate compaction and restore productivity.
- Wet areas (seeps, ponds, springs) within harvest units would be avoided by leaving small islands of leave trees to prevent disturbance of these areas.
- 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. Cut and fill slopes would 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 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, 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).
- No cull log decks or landing piles would occur within the Water Influence Zone (WIZ) of lakes, reservoirs, perennial or intermittent streams. The WIZ is generally defined as the land next to water bodies where vegetation plays a major role in sustaining long-term integrity of aquatic systems. It includes the geomorphic floodplain, riparian ecosystem, and inner gorge. Its minimum horizontal width (from top of each bank) is 100 feet or the mean height of mature dominant late-seral vegetation, whichever is greatest (36 CFR 219.27e).
- During road construction, initial clearing operations would fully contain material on-site and not allow material to move into the 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 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.

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 402 and 540). Existing NFSRs currently open for use would also receive pre-haul maintenance depending upon 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 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 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.
- Closure of re-opened roads would include: removal of culverts; elimination of ditches, ruts and berms; revegetating, effectively blocking the road to normal vehicular traffic 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 culverts are removed, associated fills would also be removed to the extent necessary to permit normal maximum flow of water and to restore the channel profile.

- Obliteration of newly constructed temporary roads would include all items described under closure plus recontouring the roadbed.
- 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.
- The timber sale purchaser 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

The Forest service will:

- Prior to beginning project activities, survey for and mark as wildlife leave trees those snags containing nest cavities and other signs of wildlife use.
- Avoid important habitat features such as wallows and travel corridors.
- Prevent unauthorized use by ATV's and the proliferation of user-developed routes within the project area by requiring the timber purchaser to keep the gate on the Powerline Trail locked at all times.
- Additional surveys would be conducted during project implementation to determine if new, active goshawk nests appear within the project area. If an active nest is located, timber sale activities would not occur within ¼ mile of the active goshawk nest from March 1 to July 31 if those activities would cause nest failure or abandonment.
- Maintain a minimum of ten tons per acre of logs and other down woody material. Where it exists, retain at least 50 linear feet per acre of down-dead logs at least 10 inches diameter.
- Where they exist, retain 120-300 snags 8" dbh or greater per 100 acres.

Other Alternatives Considered

In addition to the selected alternative, I considered two other alternatives. A comparison of these alternatives can be found in the EA on pages 8-9.

Alternative 1

No Action

Under the No Action alternative, current management plans would continue to guide management of the project area.

Alternative 3

Alternative 3 would reduce proposed harvest unit 29 to 40 acres or less. The other four units in the sale would stay the same as in Alternative 2. Reduced acreage and the associated volume reduction are the only significant differences from Alternative 2. As a result of the smaller area, less fencing costs will be incurred. Temporary road construction will remain approximately the same.

Public Involvement

The following list details all of the methods used to ask the public for comments on Wolverine Timber Sale.

- The Plateau Aspen Timber Sale proposal was first listed in the Schedule of Proposed Actions for the 2nd quarter of 2002 (April 1st – June 30th). In 2007, the Plateau Aspen Timber Sale proposal was split into two sales; Wolverine and Spartan.
- One scoping effort was conducted. The proposal was provided to the public and other agencies for comment from December 14, 2007 through February 12, 2008.
- In addition, as part of the public involvement process, the agency published a Legal Notice of the Proposed Action, Opportunity to Comment in the Telluride Daily Planet on December 14, 2007. This notice fulfills the requirements of 36 CFR the requirements of 36 CFR 215.1b & 215.6.
- A public field tour was held to view the proposed Wolverine Timber Sale on October 10, 2007. A record of the attendees can be found in the project file.

A summary of public comments and responses to these comments is attached to this decision document. All public comment letters are located in the project record. Based upon public comment and internal discussions the following key issue was identified for consideration in the EA (page 5) by the interdisciplinary team:

- Exceeding the Regional and Forest Plan Standard for maximum clearcut size

Finding of No Significant Impact

After considering the environmental effects described in the EA, I have determined that these actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment considering the context and intensity of impacts (40 CFR 1508.27). Thus, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. I base my finding on the following:

1. My finding of no significant environmental effects is not biased by the beneficial effects of the action.
2. There will be no significant effects on public health and safety, because with Alternative 2 design criteria and standard practices in the Recreation and Lands section (EA pages 10 – 11) either restrict activities to specified time periods of lower use, or include traffic warning signs, or utilize adequate transportation systems, which effectively minimizes the effects on public health and safety.
3. There are no prime farmlands, parklands, wild and scenic rivers, or other ecologically critical areas within the analysis area. State and Federal standards for water quality and

soil protection will be met with the implementation of the Watershed Conservation Practices for Best Management Practices, standard timber sale contract provisions, and project design criteria (EA pages 12 – 13). No adverse effects on floodplains or wetlands are anticipated.

4. A reasonable dispute over the nature or extent of the effects presented in the EA has not been raised during public scoping or the public comment period (Response to Comments). Disagreement with proposed actions on a National Forest does not constitute the controversy envisioned by the framers of 40 CFR 1500. Therefore, I find that implementing Alternative 2 is not highly controversial.
5. The effects of timber sale activities associated with Alternative 2 are understood and well documented in research literature and in monitoring of similar projects. The interdisciplinary team has used the best available science in analyzing the potential effects (EA pages 17 – 30) of the Wolverine Timber Sale. I find that the implementation of Alternative 2, will not involve unique or unknown risks.
6. I find that Alternative 2 is neither precedent setting nor a connected action to other proposed activities.
7. The cumulative impacts are not significant.
8. Adequate cultural resource surveys have been performed in accordance with the National Historical Preservation Act. I find no significant impact to heritage resources will occur because eligible sites will be avoided, protected, or excavated and additional heritage resources discovered during harvest activities will be protected. The Colorado State Historical Preservation Office concurred with these findings on April 21, 2008. At the time of cultural resource surveys and the environmental analysis, the Northern Ute Tribe required American Indian consultation upon discovery of any potential Traditional Cultural Properties. No such properties were recorded during the surveys of the analysis area (Cultural Resources Survey 2007). The intent of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (P.L. 95-341) has been met.
9. A Biological Assessment (January 2008) has been prepared for the EA in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-205). Alternative 2 was determined to “may affect but not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) the Canadian lynx, a species listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act.
10. I find Alternative 2 complies with Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. The action is consistent with the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests Amended Land and Resource Management Plan.

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

Forest Plan Consistency: Alternatives 2 and 3 are consistent with the overall management direction provided within the 1991 Forest Plan, as amended. Factors that were considered in determining whether this project is consistent with the Forest Plan are as follows:

1. The selected alternative assists in reaching multiple use objectives listed in Chapter III, pages 5 to 8 of the Forest Plan.
2. The selected alternative responds directly to Forest Plan goals listed in Chapter III, pages 2 to 4. The planned activities will not detract from or jeopardize any of the Forest Plan goals.
 - Timber activities will result in some disturbance to water, soils, visuals, wildlife and vegetation; however, with implementation of the design criteria, adverse effects to water, soils, visuals, recreation, wildlife and vegetation will not be significant.
 - Clearcutting is appropriate to meet the objectives and requirements of the Forest Plan.
 - Cut blocks are shaped and blended to the extent practicable with the natural terrain.
 - With the exception of unit 29, harvest will be carried out according to the maximum size limit requirements for areas to be cut during one harvest operation. Unit 29 acreage will exceed the 40-acre maximum; however, the Forest Supervisor requested and was granted by the Regional Forester an exemption from the 40-acre maximum. This request was submitted and approved in compliance with FSM 2471.1, R2 Supplement 2400-2003-1; 36 CFR 219.27(d); and the Forest Plan (page III-43).
 - Harvest will occur in a manner consistent with the protection of soil, watershed, fish, wildlife, recreation, esthetic resources, cultural and historic resources, and the regeneration of timber resources.
 - Stands of trees will be harvested according to requirements for culmination of mean annual increment.
3. The selected alternative is consistent with Forest Plan Management Direction, Standards and Guidelines, and with the following Management Area Prescriptions:

4D: Aspen Management. Unit 29 is located in this Management Area. The management emphasis is to maintain or improve aspen and to provide wood fiber, wildlife habitat, visual quality and plant and animal diversity. Silvicultural treatments of aspen stands have been designed to enhance aspen size and age diversity. Wood fiber will be provided to local industries. Temporary road construction will occur. New temporary roads will be closed and obliterated by the purchaser immediately after timber is removed. Semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-primitive motorized and roaded natural recreation opportunities will not be affected by treatments. Livestock grazing is compatible with aspen management.

6B: Livestock Management Emphasis. The four power line units are located in this Management Area. The management emphasis is livestock grazing, but investments are made in compatible resource activities. Semi-primitive non-motorized and roaded

natural recreation opportunities will not be affected by treatments. Aspen management is compatible with livestock grazing.

4. Silvicultural treatments are consistent with the Forest Plan (EA pages 19 - 22).
5. Timber harvest occurs on lands suited for timber production or occurs in areas where timber harvest is permitted and is necessary to help achieve other resource management objectives (EA page 6).
6. In May 2005 the Forest Supervisor on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) issued an amendment that, in part, revised the list of Management Indicator Species (MIS). This list revision was completed under the authority and guidance provided in 36 CFR 219.19 (1982 Rule). Also as part of this amendment, the GMUG used authority provided in 36 CFR 219.14(f) in the 2005 planning Rule (2005 Rule) to make monitoring of MIS populations discretionary. However, on March 30, 2007 the Forest Service was enjoined by the 9th Circuit District Court from implementation of the 2005 Rule. That ruling invalidated the authority provided by 36 CFR 219.14(f).
Revision of the GMUG list of MIS was completed under authorities provided in the 1982 Rule and, therefore, remains valid and in effect. However, since the 2005 Rule has been enjoined and, therefore, authority granted in 36 CFR 219.14(f) invalidated, the GMUG has reinstated MIS requirements per the 1982 planning regulations to monitor both habitat and populations. Regardless of the planning rule in effect, the GMUG has considered and will continue to consider the “best available science” in forest and project level planning, including data and analysis needs for MIS.
The scope of analysis for management indicator species is determined by forest plan management direction, specifically, its standards and guidelines (Chapter II) and monitoring direction (Chapter IV). The GMUG National Forest’s Forest Plan (Forest Plan) establishes monitoring and evaluation requirements that employ both habitat capability relationships and, at the appropriate scale, population data. The analysis completed for this project examined how the project directly, indirectly and cumulatively affects selected MIS habitat and populations and how these local effects could influence Forest-wide habitat and population trends (EA pages 26 - 29). Further, the analysis indicates that the project contributes to meeting Forest Plan direction as it relates to MIS.
7. This project is in compliance with the National Forest Management Act regarding culmination of mean annual increment (16 USC 1604(m)), restocking within five years (16 USC 1604 (g)(3)(E)), and clearcut harvest as the optimum method for regeneration (16 USC 1604(g)(3)(F)).

Appeal Rights

This decision is subject to appeal by parties who have expressed interest during the analysis process.

A notice of appeal must be in writing and clearly state that is a Notice of Appeal being filed pursuant to 36 CFR 215.7, and must meet all requirements of 36 CFR 215. Appeals must be filed within 45 days of the date of legal notice of this decision in the Telluride Daily Planet.

The publication date of the legal notice in the Telluride Daily Planet is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal (36 CFR 215.15 (a)). Those wishing to appeal should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Notices of Appeal may be sent to the following addresses:

U.S. Postal Service Address: Appeals Deciding Officer U.S.D.A., Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region 740 Simms Golden, Colorado 80401
Physical Street Address for delivery services or hand delivery (Office hours are 8:00 to 4:30) Appeals Deciding Officer U.S.D.A., Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region 740 Simms Golden, Colorado 80401
E-mail delivery To: appeals-rocky-mountain-gmug@fs.fed.us (Electronic appeals must be in Microsoft Word, Word Perfect or plain text file format.)
Facsimile delivery (303) 275-5134

Implementation Date

If no appeals are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of the decision may occur on, but not before, 5 business days from the close of the appeal filing period. When appeals are filed, implementation may occur on, but not before, the 15th business day following the date of the last appeal disposition.

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact Monica Ruiz Diaz, Forester, 2505 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, Colorado 81401 or by phone at 970-240-5406.

Judy Schutz
District Ranger
Norwood Ranger District

Date