



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Intermountain
Region

324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401-2310

File Code: 1920/1950

Date: October 29, 1999

Greetings from the Utah Northern Goshawk Project:

Enclosed are the following documents: the Environmental Assessment (EA), a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, and a Draft National Forest Management Act (NFMA) Finding of Nonsignificance. The Draft FONSI concludes that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required, and the Draft NFMA finding concludes that this action represents a nonsignificant amendment to the six Utah National Forests' Land and Resource Management Plans. Please note that Appendix H of the EA includes a Draft Biological Assessment and Draft Biological Evaluations (2).

While 36 CFR §217(4) does not require predecisional public notice or a comment period for nonsignificant amendments to Forest Plans, we want to be responsive to public requests for a comment period on the EA prior to a decision. A 60-day comment period is being provided since the holiday season is almost here. We will use comments received on the enclosed environmental documents to help make a more informed decision. The comment period will begin with the publication of a Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. It is anticipated that this will be today, October 29.

Information and updates concerning this project will continue to be available on the Project's homepage at www.fs.fed.us/r4/goshawk.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Hauser at 801/625-5897, or send an e-mail message to goshawk3/r4_uinta@fs.fed.us.

Also enclosed is the "Assessment of Habitat Conditions in Utah for the Northern Goshawk and Its Prey," which was referenced throughout the EA (Graham et al.). We hope you will take the time to read and consider the enclosed information and send us your comments.

Thank you for your continued interest in our project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jack G. Troyer
(for) JACK A. BLACKWELL
Regional Forester

Enclosures (7)

