



File Code: 1950-1

Date: October 5, 2007

Dear Friends of the Forest:

Enclosed is the Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact for the Marlinton Range Allotments, which I signed on September 28, 2007.

I have selected Alternative 2, which includes the following activities in four grazing allotments (Mullenax, Beale-Hacking, Day Run, and Kramer): (1) Continue to use livestock grazing as a vegetation management tool to maintain these areas in a relatively open, non-forested, herbaceous condition; (2) maintain/repair/reconstruct/replace all structural improvements, such as fences, corrals or watering facilities, as needed; (3) use EPA registered and approved herbicides (glyphosate and triclopyr) to control hawthorne and noxious, non-native, invasive or poisonous brush and weeds. Using individual basal spray treatments or spot applications, as needed; (4) apply lime and/or fertilizer; (5) re-seed grasses and legumes; and (6) mow, chainsaw lop or use hand tools, as needed, to selectively control weed and brush invasion.

In the Beale-Hacking Allotment, three ponds will be cleaned out using an excavator and/or backhoe and install pipe to an existing spring tank to deliver the water to the cattle. Fence will be installed around riparian areas to exclude cattle and a stream crossing ford will be re-hardened to provide cattle and equipment access from one pasture to another in the Mullenax Allotment. Abandon the pond that doesn't hold water in the Day Run Allotment and develop a new pond in another location of the allotment. All mitigation measures and design criteria listed in the Decision Notice and EA document will be implemented.

I selected this alternative because it provides the best balance between meeting the desired condition for the project area vegetation while protecting the other resources in an economically efficient manner.

I would like to take this time to thank you for your interest and participation in the planning process for this project. If you need additional information, please contact the project leader, O'Dell Tucker at the Marlinton Ranger Office at 1103 Cemetery Road, Marlinton, WV, 24954, TTY/Voice 304-799-4334 (Ext. 19); or you contact me at 304-799-4334 (Ext. 17).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Rondi L. Fischer*  
RONDI L. FISCHER  
District Ranger

