

**File Code:** 1950**Date:** February 3, 2021**Route To:****Subject:** USDA Review of Pending Decisions**To:** Regional Foresters, Station Directors, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs, and WO Directors

On February 1, 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment requested an opportunity to review certain pending natural resource management decisions that will be finalized by Forest Service responsible officials prior to March 31, 2021. The purpose of the review is to ensure that Forest Service actions are aligned with Administration priorities following the issuance of recent Executive Orders, while also meeting the intent of the multiple use mission of the Forest Service and the need to continue important work in stewarding the National Forest System.

Decisions to be reviewed are those involving the following management activities:

- Activities in designated wilderness requiring approval under Section 4(c) or 4(d) of the Wilderness Act.
- Road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting activities on lands originally designated pursuant to 36 CFR 294, subpart B (2001) as well as any roadless lands designated in a subsequent roadless rulemaking.
- Special Use Authorizations (and any Forest Plan amendments) involving new construction or expansion of infrastructure for conventional energy production, including pipelines or transmission lines.
- New, modified, or expanded locatable or leasable minerals activities involving ground disturbance on greater than 500 acres.
- Activities involving cutting or removal of more than 3,000 acres of vegetation that will be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement.
- Final decisions for revisions or significant amendments of Land Management Plans.

Planned decisions subject to this review will be described in summary form. The summary should be a brief but sufficient description of: the purpose and need; the planned action; any potentially significant environmental effects; public involvement including with State and local governments; Tribal consultation including any issues raised by Tribal governments; and any statutory, court-related or administrative timelines including those associated with permit renewals. Copies of environmental documents should not be submitted; however, links to project websites may be included.



To meet the timeline established by the Department, summary documents will be required in the Washington Office by 1700 Eastern Time, Wednesday, February 10, 2021.

A decision summary template has been developed for compiling the necessary information. The template, and direction for compiling and submitting the summaries are available at:

<https://usfs.box.com/s/2hoiuwz6bunvw2yhl90xtcga4n6wqylv>.

For questions or additional information, please contact Scott Fitzwilliams, Acting Director, Ecosystem Management Coordination, at (970) 355-4133 or [scott.fitzwilliams@usda.gov](mailto:scott.fitzwilliams@usda.gov)

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for

Signed by: KATHERINE ARMSTRONG  
VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN  
Chief