

**DRAFT DECISION NOTICE**  
**and**  
**FINDING of NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**for the**  
**BLACK LOCUST FUELWOOD PROJECT**

USDA Forest Service  
Huron-Manistee National Forests  
Cadillac-Manistee Ranger District  
Wexford County, Michigan

**Introduction**

This Draft Decision Notice (DDN) documents the decision I intend to make to implement the proposed activities described in the Black Locust Fuelwood Project Environmental Assessment (EA). The Black Locust Fuelwood Project Area (Project Area) is located on the Cadillac-Manistee (CM) Ranger District of the HMNF in the following locations (see the attached Selected Alternative map):

T23N, R12W, Sections 25 & 26, Springville Township, Wexford County

This document also describes the reasons for my intended decision and my finding of no significant impact (FONSI). This finding is in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The decision and findings are based on the analysis of the proposed activities and alternatives to those actions in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project.

In developing the EA, Decision Notice (DN), and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), I recognize that less than complete knowledge exists about many relationships and conditions of wildlife, fish, forests, jobs, and communities. The ecology, inventory, and management of a large forest area are a complex and constantly developing science. The biology of wildlife species prompts questions about population dynamics and habitat relationships. The interaction between resource supply, the economy, and communities is not an exact science. Perfect knowledge and absolute guarantees are not attainable, no matter how much we wish it to be otherwise.

The data and level of analysis used in the Black Locust Fuelwood EA were commensurate with the importance of the possible impacts (40 CFR 1502.15). When encountering a gap in information, the Interdisciplinary Team concluded that the missing information frequently would have added precision to estimates or better defined a relationship. However, the basic data and central relationships are sufficiently well established in the respective sciences and the new information would be very unlikely to reverse or nullify understood relationships. Thus, new information would be welcome and would add precision, but is not essential to a reasoned choice among the alternatives.

This environmental analysis is tiered to the 2006 Huron-Manistee Land and Resource Management Plan as Amended (Forest Plan) (HMNF 2012a) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (HMNF 2012b). The management prescription area (MA) of the Project Area is entirely within MA 2.1. Relevant discussion from this document and the Planning Record has been incorporated by reference rather than repeated (40 CFR 1502.21). I have reviewed the EA and associated project information. This decision is based upon that review.

## Decision

This Draft Decision Notice documents my intended decision to implement the proposed management activities that include vegetation management and wildlife habitat improvement activities in the Black Locust Fuelwood Project Area. **It is my decision to implement Alternative 2 as documented in the EA.** Alternative 2 will be referred to as the Selected Alternative from this point forward (see the attached Selected Alternative map). This decision meets the Purpose and Need for the project. It is responsive to issues raised during scoping, follows the relevant laws and regulations, and is consistent with the Forest Plan.

The following is a list of the activities that will be implemented under the Selected Alternative. These activities are displayed on the attached Selected Alternative map.

### Treatments to be Implemented

Table 1

Treatment Types	Measurement	Compartment-Stand
Opening Creation	23 Acres	Compartment 52/Stands 3,36,39,61,62
Opening Maintenance – Hand Cutting	23 Acres	Compartment 52/Stands 3,36,39,61,62
Opening Maintenance - Broadcast Burn	23 Acres	Compartment 52/Stands 3,36,39,61,62
Non-native Invasive Plant Treatment with Herbicide	23 Acres	Compartment 52/Stands 3,36,39,61,62

The twenty-three acres of opening creation shown above will be converted from a Land Suitability Class (LSC) 500, land that is suitable for timber production, to an LSC 200, non-forested wildlife openings.

**The following mitigation measures will be required for implementing the Selected Alternative:**

### Mitigation Measures

#### Resource Protection

- Recommendations included in the *State of Michigan Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land* (MDNR 2009) and Forest Service Handbook 2550 would be incorporated to provide protection of soil and water resources.
- Protect known heritage resource sites in accordance with State Historic Preservation Office guidelines. Mitigation measures used to avoid site disturbance would be applied to all action alternatives. Site specific heritage resource mitigation measures are incorporated into the individual treatment units cards (see Appendix A of the EA). If any unknown heritage resource sites would be found when ground disturbing activities are taking place on the project, the activity would stop until a professional heritage resource specialist is informed and adequate protection measures are applied to avoid potential impacts.
- Protect known threatened, endangered, or sensitive species and the immediate habitat in which they are

found. If any of these species are found during project implementation, the activities within the immediate area would stop until the district's wildlife biologist or botanist is informed and adequate protection measures applied to avoid potential impacts.

- Only black locust trees may be removed within the 100 foot RMZ on either side of the channel.
- Herbicide treatments will be conducted by State of Michigan certified pesticide applicators and will not occur in standing or flowing water to further protect water quality.

### **Operating Requirements**

- A burn plan would be written that details the operational objectives and the preferred weather conditions that provide for public safety, private property protection, and maximize smoke dispersal. Each burn plan will include details which ensure that resource objectives for the project, organic matter retention, and mineral soil exposure requirements of FSH 2509.18, Chapter 2 are fulfilled.
- Reserve existing snags that are not a safety hazard in all treatment units to maintain cavity nester habitat.

### **Rehabilitation**

- After project completion, the temporary roads would be re-shaped to allow proper drainage, blocked by means of an earthen berm (or other means), and seeded with native grasses.

Additional mitigation measures specific to each treatment unit are described in detail in the Treatment Unit Descriptions in Appendix A of the EA.

**The following monitoring and evaluation will be conducted with the Selected Alternative:**

### **Implementation Monitoring**

#### **Mitigation Measure Implementation**

**Objective:** Ensure mitigation measures for each treatment unit are being implemented.

**Desired Results:** Mitigation measures are effective in addressing resource issues.

**Methods:** Select treatment units would be visited by district personnel. Reviews would be documented in inspection reports regarding contract compliance.

**Responsibility:** District assistant rangers for timber, recreation, and wildlife

### **Contract Administration**

**Objective:** Ensure mitigation measures are implemented for firewood cutting

**Desired Results:** All firewood cutting requirements are met.

**Methods:** The firewood cutting area would be visited by the timber sale administrator.

**Responsibility:** District timber sales administrator.

### **Invasive Plants**

**Objective:** Ensure that the spread of invasive plants is minimized.

**Desired Result:** No spread of invasive plants due to treatments would occur.

**Method:** Ocular inspection within the first two years after the treatment of a unit.

**Responsibility:** District botanist

### **Controlled Burn Implementation**

**Objective:** Ensure controlled burn parameters are implemented to maintain control of the controlled burn.

**Desired Result:** Completion of controlled burn goals and objectives without containment and/or control problems.

**Method:** A controlled burn plan would be developed which sets environmental and fire equipment/personnel parameters required to meet the goals and objectives of the burn. All personnel would be briefed on burn objectives and safety measures. Personnel would be assigned to monitor fire behavior and the effectiveness of burn control measures. Upon completion of every burn, fire behavior and effectiveness of control actions would be documented.

**Responsibility:** Assistant Fire Management Officer

### **Effectiveness Monitoring**

#### **Forest Plan Monitoring**

The National Forest Management Act requires that national forests monitor and evaluate their forest plans. Forest plan monitoring is conducted over the entire forest on a periodic basis. Samples for Forest Plan monitoring may or may not be taken in the Project Area; however, monitoring results are designed to answer questions regarding the implementation and effectiveness of mitigation. Forest Plan monitoring results can be found in the FY2010-FY2011 Monitoring and Evaluation Report found in the Planning Record.

### **Reason For The Intended Decision**

In making my decision, I considered all issues and took into account the competing interests and values of the public. I carefully considered the appropriate type and level of treatment needed to achieve: and, enhance and increase the variety of wildlife habitats, including upland openings, in the Project Area. There were limited opinions expressed by the public during the analysis. This decision will likely not satisfy everyone. However, I have considered all views and believe that the decision I have made is reasonable. The Selected Alternative provides the best mix of benefits for the public within the framework of the existing laws, regulations, policies, public needs and desires, and capabilities of the land, while meeting the stated Purpose and Need for this project. The Purpose and Need objectives for this project include the following:

- **Sustain Forest and Ecosystem Health**
- **Provide early successional habitat**

My intended decision to choose Alternative 2 as the Selected Alternative was based on my review of the Environmental Assessment and a combination of biological, social, and economic factors. It is my judgment after evaluating the effects of the proposed alternatives, as described in Chapter 3 of the EA, that the Selected Alternative has the best balance of benefits from a biological, social, and economic standpoint.

### **Public Involvement**

The Forest Service uses public involvement and an Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) of resource specialists to determine issues of concern and develop possible solutions. Scoping is a process for gathering comments about a

site-specific proposed federal action to determine the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying unresolved issues related to the proposed action (40 CFR 1501.7). Opportunities for comments enable concerned citizens, resource specialists from other agencies, and local governments to express their ideas and views. Public involvement for the project included listing in the HMNF's Schedule of Proposed Actions and a direct mailing on December 20, 2013 to approximately 72 individuals, organizations, and adjacent landowners; and, a listing on the HMNF's website. During the scoping period, 3 responses were received.

Public comments were used to refine the issues, alternatives, and the potential environmental effects. A copy of the scoping letter, mailing list of individuals, government agencies, and organizations contacted, comments received, news releases, and other public involvement information are included in the Planning Record. The IDT developed a list of issues from internal and external scoping. According to NEPA, issues are points of discussion, debate, or dispute concerning the proposed action of the project. One relevant issue was identified and used to develop alternatives and is addressed in the Purpose and Need section of the EA (see page 1-6 of the EA). Other issues and management concerns identified were addressed in the environmental effects section, but were not used to develop alternatives.

During the 30-day comment period for the Black Locust Fuelwood Project one comment was received. This comment is included within this document as Appendix A. This comment did not change the issues used to formulate alternatives, the effects analysis, or the decision to proceed with implementation of the Selected Alternative.

In making my proposed decision, I also considered the main relevant issue identified through the public involvement process. In the following summary, I disclose how the Selected Alternative addresses this issue. Table 2-1 on page 2-3 of the EA and Chapter 3 of the EA supplement the following discussion and provide a comparison of the alternatives.

The Selected Alternative accomplishes important goals and objectives of the Purpose and Need while responding to those comments received by the public and those elicited from within the Forest Service. The Selected Alternative responds to those individuals who had comments and concerns about the impact to aquatic organisms from herbicide use.

#### **Issue: Impacts to Aquatic Organisms from Herbicide Use**

This issue addresses the general concern about riparian areas be treated with herbicides within the Project Area.

Concern was raised in regards to various aspects of herbicide use adjacent to Smail Creek and the impact of herbicide use on aquatic organisms. This comment resulted in the modified Alternative 2. In this modified Alternative 2, the use of herbicide in standing water would not be allowed.

### **Alternatives Developed for Detailed Evaluation**

One action alternative was developed to specifically address the major relevant issue identified in Chapter 1 of the EA, while meeting the Purpose and Need objectives. The action alternative is consistent with the standards and guidelines of the Forest Plan. The alternative that was developed for this project is briefly described below. Chapter 2 of the EA describes this alternative and its development in more detail.

**Alternative 1** - Alternative 1 is the No Action Alternative. Under Alternative 1, none of the proposed vegetative treatments or other management activities would occur in the Project Area on National Forest System (NFS) lands. Some activities, such as resource protection, would continue within the Project Area. Selection of

Alternative 1 does not preclude future analysis or implementation of on-going management proposals within the Project Area.

**Alternative 2** - Alternative 2 is the Modified Proposed Action that was described during scoping with very minor changes to the original proposal. After additional site-specific resource information became available on the project, some of the proposed treatments were dropped, modified, or added. Portions of stands were dropped from treatment or modified because of resource concerns.

### **Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study**

The IDT considered a range of alternatives during the analysis before a reasonable set of alternatives was considered for detailed study. One alternative was eliminated from detailed study and is described as follows:

**Original Proposed Action** - The Black Locust Fuelwood Project Proposed Action was described in the December 20, 2013 scoping letter and in Chapter 1. After additional site-specific resource information became available on the project. Minor changes to boundaries and specific treatments were made.

## **Finding Of No Significant Impact**

I have determined, based on the discussion of effects in the EA, and from past experience with similar activities, that these actions are not a major federal action, individually or cumulatively, and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1508.27) and that an environmental impact statement is not needed. I have made this determination based on the following factors:

**1) Both beneficial and adverse impacts are expected. The beneficial impacts will outweigh expected short term, adverse impacts.**

The Selected Alternative responds to public comments while achieving the Purpose and Need objectives. Mitigation measures will be implemented with the Selected Alternative to reduce the negative effects of the proposed activities on the environment (see pages 2-4 of the EA, pages 2-3 of the DN, and Appendix A of the EA). Beneficial impacts will outweigh expected short-term, adverse impacts.

**2) Public health and safety are minimally affected by the proposed actions.**

There will be minimal risks to public health and safety as a result of this decision. The areas of risk will occur where public use of the Forest coincides in time and space with implementing management activities. Timber sale operations, prescribed burning, and herbicide applications will have warning signs posted. Snags that pose a safety hazard to timber sale operations or the public may be removed. Mitigation measures will be implemented with the Selected Alternative to reduce the negative effects of the proposed activities on the environment (see pages 2-4 of the EA, pages 2-3 of the DN, and Appendix A of the EA).

**3) The Selected Alternative is not expected to impact any unique geographic area.**

The Project Area is not in a wilderness area (see page III-5.1-1 of the Forest Plan), protected airshed (see page 3-14 of the EA), or any other unique geographic area (see pages III-6.1-1, III-6.2-1, III-7.1-1, III-8.2-1, III-8.4-1, III-9.1-1, and III-9.2-1 of the Forest Plan).

There are no caves, mines, or other unusual landforms in the Project Area. Various riparian and wetland areas are located within the Project Area, including Smail Creek. All activities which are anticipated to take place will

meet the recommendations included in the *State of Michigan Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land* and the Forest Service Handbook 2550 (see page 2-4 of the EA and page 3 of the DN).

**4) Based on public participation, the effects on the quality of human environment are not likely to be highly controversial.**

There has been public interest in this project. Three written comments have been received from the public in regards to the proposed activities during the scoping process (see page 1-4 of the EA and pages 5 and 6 of the DN). During the 30-day comment period one comment was received. Based on the level of response to the project by the public and past experiences with herbicide use, prescribed burning and firewood cutting, I have determined that this project is not highly controversial. This does not mean that implementation of the project will be acceptable to all people, because some people will neither agree nor be pleased with the decision. However, the effects of the project are not likely to be a source of substantial controversial scientific disagreement.

**5) There are no known effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.**

The activities in this project are similar to many past actions, both in the analysis area and adjacent areas. Project activities, including herbicide use, firewood cutting and controlled burning on these soils, terrain, and vegetative types have taken place in this, and similar areas, and have produced no apparent adverse effects (see Chapter 3 of the EA for the various resource cumulative effects).

**6) This action will not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.**

The decision made on activities within this Project Area does not commit me to actions on lands outside the Project Area. This decision will not establish a precedent for future actions, nor limit future options for management.

**7) There are no known significant cumulative effects between this project and other projects implemented or planned on areas separated from the affected area of this project.**

There are no known significant cumulative effects between this project and other projects currently implemented or planned in the Project Area or adjacent areas. The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects are disclosed in the EA (see Chapter 3 of the EA for the various resource cumulative effects).

**8) This project will not result in the loss or destruction of any scientific, cultural, or historic resources.**

All known heritage resource sites will be protected as recommended by a Forest Heritage Resource Specialist, and in accordance with State Historic Preservation Office guidelines. Mitigation measures used to avoid disturbance to the sites will be applied to the Selected Alternative. These heritage resource mitigation measures are incorporated into the treatment units they are found in (see Appendix A of the EA). If any unknown heritage resource sites are identified during project implementation, then the project work will stop and the Forest archaeologist must be contacted (see page 2-4 of the EA and page 3 of the DN). Project work in this area will not be allowed to resume until the heritage resources in question have been documented and the site area is preserved from any potential impacts. Because the heritage resources sites have been documented, protected, and/or removed from the area of potential effect, there are no expected impacts to heritage resources (see pages 3-22 and Appendix A of the EA).

**9) The Selected Alternative has been designed to incorporate the needs of, and to not adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that have been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.**

A Biological Evaluation (BE) was prepared for the Black Locust Fuelwood Project (see the Planning Record). The BE evaluated the effects of this project on federally listed or proposed species, designated critical habitat, and Regional Forester's Sensitive Species (RFSS) that may inhabit the Project Area. The BE documented the determinations of effects of the Black Locust Fuelwood Project activities on proposed, endangered, and threatened species and critical habitat, and on RFSS by each alternative.

The BE determined that there are no federally threatened or endangered species known to occur in the Black Locust Fuelwood Project Area or would be impacted by the proposed activities. The determinations for RFSS wildlife and plant species that could occur within the Project Area are listed in Tables 3-2 and 3-3 in Chapter 3 of the EA. The determinations were made contingent on implementation of the mitigation measures listed in the BE. The mitigation measures in the BE would be implemented with the Selected Alternative. All other RFSS wildlife and plant species for the HMNF were considered but were not expected to occur within the Project Area. Therefore, they would not be affected by the Selected Alternative.

**10) The actions do not threaten a violation of federal, state or local laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment and will not result in a loss of federally controlled wetland or flood plain as defined by Executive Order 11988 and 11990.**

Floodplains and riparian areas are located within the Project Area. The Project Area occurs within the Manistee River Watershed. Implementation of this project will not result in a loss of wetlands or floodplains in the Project Area.

The riparian areas along the rivers and tributaries within the Project Area will remain vegetated, thereby minimizing the potential for soil movement from the harvested units. Because of the distance between the majority of the treatment units and the riparian areas in the Project Area, minimal erosion or sedimentation impacts are expected (see pages 3-8 through 3-12 of the EA). The one treatment unit that is adjacent to the a riparian area will protect the water resource through the use of mitigation measures and BMPs and minimal erosion or sedimentation impacts are expected (see pages 3-8 through 3-12 of the EA). All activities which are anticipated to take place will meet the recommendations included in the *State of Michigan Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land* and the Forest Service Handbook 2550 (see page 2-4 of the EA and page 2 of the DN).

## **Findings Required By Law**

### **National Forest Management Act**

It is my finding that the actions of this decision comply with the requirements of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA), NFMA implementing regulations in 36 CFR Section 219, and the 2006 Huron-Manistee National Forests' Land and Resource Management Plan as Amended.

The actions to be implemented are consistent with the Forest Plan's Standards and Guidelines for Management Prescription Area 2.1 (see pages III-2.1-1-8 (MA 2.1)). The Selected Alternative results in applying management practices that meet the Forest Plan's Forest-wide Management Area Direction of complying with Federal laws and regulations, and provides an optimum economic mixture of market and non-market outputs and benefits (see pages II-1 through II-40).

### **Endangered Species Act**

A BE was prepared for the Black Locust Fuelwood Project (see the Planning Record). The BE evaluated the effects of this project on federally listed or proposed species, designated critical habitat, and RFSS that may inhabit the Project Area. The BE documented the determinations of effects of the Black Locust Fuelwood Project activities on proposed, endangered, and threatened species and critical habitat, and on RFSS by each alternative.

The BE determined that there are no federally threatened or endangered species known to occur in the Black Locust Fuelwood Project Area or would be impacted by the proposed activities. The determinations for RFSS wildlife and plant species that could occur within the Project Area are listed in Tables 3-2 and 3-3 in Chapter 3 of the EA. The determinations were made contingent on implementation of the mitigation measures listed in the BE. The mitigation measures in the BE would be implemented with the Selected Alternative. All other RFSS wildlife and plant species for the HMNF were considered but were not expected to occur within the Project Area. Therefore, they would not be affected by the Selected Alternative.

### **Clean Water Act**

This Act is designed to restore and maintain the integrity of water resources. The Forest Service complies with this Act through the use of Best Management Practices. Because of the distance between the majority of the treatment units and the riparian areas in the Project Area, minimal erosion or sedimentation impacts are expected (see pages 3-8 through 3-12 of the EA). All activities which are anticipated to take place will meet the recommendations included in the *State of Michigan Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land* and the Forest Service Handbook 2550 (see page 2-4 of the EA and page 2 of the DN).

### **Clean Air Act**

The Project Area is not in a protected airshed. The effects of the project activities on air quality are expected to be temporary, minor, and localized (see pages 3-14 through 3-17 of the EA). Smoke from the controlled burn activity will negatively affect short-term air quality to residents and visitors immediately adjacent to controlled burn treatments units. A burn plan will be written for prescribed burn projects that detail the management objectives and the wind and temperature conditions that provide for public safety, private property protection, and maximize smoke dispersal (see page 4 of the DN, and Appendix A of the EA).

### **National Historic Preservation Act, Archaeological Resources Protection Act and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act**

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of a project on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register. The Archeological Resources Protection Act covers the discovery and protection of historic properties that are excavated or discovered on federal lands. The federal government has trust responsibilities to tribes under a government-to-government relationship to insure that the tribe's rights are protected. Consultation with tribes helps insure that these trust responsibilities are met. The Forest consulted with potentially affected tribes. Tribal concerns that were expressed were addressed in the project mitigation and/or through the analysis process.

The known heritage resource sites will be protected as recommended by a heritage resource specialist, and in accordance with State Historic Preservation Office guidelines. Mitigation measures used to avoid disturbance to the sites will be applied to the Selected Alternative. These heritage resource mitigation measures are incorporated into the treatment units they are found in (see Appendix A of the EA). If any unknown heritage resource sites are identified during project implementation, then the project work will stop and a Forest Cultural Resource

Professional must be contacted. Project work in this area will not be allowed to resume until the heritage resources in question have been documented and the site area is preserved from any potential impacts (see page 2-4 of the EA and page 2 of the DN). Because the heritage resources sites have been documented and protected, from the area of potential effect, there are no expected impacts to heritage resources (see page 3-22 and Appendix A of the EA).

### **National Environmental Policy Act**

This Act requires public involvement and consideration of environmental effects. The entirety of documentation for this decision supports compliance with this Act (see Chapter 1 and page 2-1 of the EA).

### **Administrative Review**

This decision is subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. The Objection Reviewing Officer for this Decision is Leslie Auriemmo Forest Supervisor.

A written notice of objection must be submitted within 45 calendar days after the Legal Notice is published in the *Manistee News Advocate*; however, when the 45-day filing period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, then filing time is extended to the end of the next Federal working day. The date of the publication of the Legal Notice is the only means for calculating the date by which objections must be submitted; do not rely upon any other source for this information. Per 36 CFR 218.9 it is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection. Timeliness must be determined by the following indicators: the date of the U.S. Postal Service postmark for an objection received before the close of the 5<sup>th</sup> business day after the objection filing period; the agency's electronically generated posted date and time for e-mail and facsimiles; the shipping date for delivery by private carrier for an objection received prior to the close of the fifth business day after the objection period; or the official agency date stamp showing receipt of hand delivery. For e-mailed objections the objector should receive acknowledgement of receipt, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely filing by other methods.

Objections will be accepted only from individuals or entities (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) who submit timely and specific written comments (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) about this proposed project or activity during this or another public comment period established by the responsible official. A timely submission will be determined as outlined in 36 CFR 218.25 (a)(4). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after designated comment opportunities §218.8(c).

The objection must contain the minimum content requirements specified in §218.8(d) and incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

Written objections, including attachments, must be filed with:

Attn: Objection Reviewing Officer, USDA, Forest Service, Gaslight Building, Suite 700, 626 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53202. The Notice of Objection may alternatively be faxed to: 414-944-3963, Attn: Objections Deciding Officer, USDA, Forest Service, Eastern Regional Office. Those wishing to submit objections by email may do so to: [objections-eastern-region@fs.fed.us](mailto:objections-eastern-region@fs.fed.us)

Acceptable formats for electronic comments are text or html email, Adobe portable document format, and formats

viewable in Microsoft Office applications. Please put “Black Locust Fuelwood Project Objection” in the subject line. Hand-delivered objections may be submitted at the above address between 7:30 and 4:00 pm CT Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays. It is the objector’s responsibility to provide sufficient project- or activity-specific evidence and rationale, focusing on the decision, to show why the Responsible Official’s decision should be reversed. The objection must be filed with the Objection Deciding Officer in writing. As provided in §218.8(d) at a minimum, an objection must include the following:

- Objector’s name and address as defined in §218.2, with telephone number if available;
- Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);
- When multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector and verification of the identity of the lead objector as defined in §218.2 or the reviewing officer will designate a lead objector;
- The name of the proposed project, the name and title of the responsible official, and name(s) of the national forest(s) and/or ranger district(s) on which the proposed project will be implemented;
- A description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project; if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and
- A statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunity(ies) for comment.

## **Project Implementation**

If no objection is received, signature and implementation of this decision may occur on, but not before, 5 business days from the close of the objection filing period. If an objection is received, signature of the decision and project implementation may not occur until a written objection response is issued by the reviewing official and any instructions issued to the responsible official have been completed.

**Contact Person**

For more information about the specific activities authorized with this decision, or to request a copy of the Environmental Assessment, please contact Matt McQueen, Cadillac-Manistee Ranger District, 412 Red Apple Road, Manistee, Michigan 49660; Telephone (231) 723-2211, ext. 3121; Fax: (231) 723-8642; email: mmcqueen@fs.fed.us.

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL**

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JIM A. THOMPSON  
District Ranger  
Cadillac-Manistee Ranger District

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Date

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