



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

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File Code: 1570/2400

Date: June 26, 2003

Jim Powers  
Prescott National Forest Friends  
PO Box 10642  
Prescott, AZ 86304

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN  
RECEIPT REQUESTED**

RE: Appeal #03-03-00-0026-A215, Indian Fire Restoration Project, Bradshaw Ranger District,  
Prescott National Forest

Dear Mr. Powers:

This is my review decision on the appeal you filed regarding the Decision Notice (DN), Environmental Analysis (EA), and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on the project noted above, which provides for cutting and removing dead and dying ponderosa pine trees from about 894 acres, replanting 730 acres, and construction of a new trailhead and 1 mile of new trail south of Prescott, Arizona.

### **BACKGROUND**

District Ranger Ernest Del Rio issued a decision on March 28, 2003, for the Indian Fire Rehabilitation Project. The District Ranger is identified as the Responsible Official, whose decision is subject to administrative review under 36 CFR 215 appeal regulations.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.16, an attempt was made to seek informal resolution of your appeal. The record indicates that informal resolution was not reached.

My review of this appeal has been conducted in accordance with 36 CFR 215.17. I have reviewed the appeal record, including the recommendations of the Appeal Reviewing Officer. My review decision incorporates the appeal record.

### **APPEAL REVIEWING OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

The Appeal Reviewing Officer recommended that the Responsible Official's decision on the Indian Fire Rehabilitation Project be reversed because the environmental effects analysis does not adequately disclose the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects. A specific area of concern is the cumulative effects analysis for soils and water for the following: past projects, the existing road network, the Indian Fire, the BAER treatments, the proposed actions, and the potential future treatment projects on federal and private lands.

The Appeal Reviewing Officer also found that the decision does not describe the actions to be taken in sufficient detail that the reader can easily understand what will occur as a result of the decision.



**APPEAL DECISION**

After a detailed review of the record and the Appeal Reviewing Officer's recommendation, I am reversing the Responsible Official's decision on the Indian Fire Restoration Project, Bradshaw Ranger District, Prescott National Forest, with the following instructions:

1. Improve the descriptions of the proposed actions.
2. Complete a new effects analysis.
3. After finalizing this analysis, complete the appropriate NEPA documentation.

This decision constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture [36 CFR §215.18(c)].

Sincerely,

/s/ Abel M. Camarena  
ABEL M. CAMARENA  
Appeal Deciding Officer,  
Deputy Regional Forester

cc: Constance J Smith, Christina Gonzalez, Mailroom R3 Prescott, Joy Kimmel, Daniel Crittenden, Wayne A Robbie