

hear and settle disputes supersedes that of the Department of Agriculture.

(d) Recommendations of Forest Service line officers to higher ranking Forest Service line officers or to other entities having final authority to implement the recommendation in question.

(e) Decisions appealable under separate administrative proceedings, including, but not limited to, those under 36 CFR 223.117 (Administration of Cooperative for Federal Sustained Yield Units); 7 CFR 21.104 (Eligibility for Recreation Payment of Amount); and 4 CFR part 21 (Bid Protests).

(f) Decisions pursuant to Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76, Performance of Commercial Activities.

(g) Decisions concerning contracts under the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended.

(h) Decisions covered by the Contract Disputes Act.

(i) Decisions involving Agency personnel matters.

(j) Decisions where relief sought is reformation of a contract or award of monetary damages.

(k) Decisions made during the preliminary planning process pursuant to 36 CFR part 219 and 40 CFR parts 1500-1508 that precede decisions to implement the proposed action.

(l) Decisions related to National Forest land and resource management plans and projects only reviewable under 36 CFR part 217.

(m) Decisions related to rehabilitation of National Forest System lands and recovery of forest resources resulting from natural disasters or other natural phenomena such as wildfires, severe wind, earthquakes, and flooding when the Regional Forester or, in situations of national significance, the Chief of the Forest Service determines and gives notice that good cause exists to exempt such decisions from appeal under this subpart.

(n) Decisions imposing penalties for archaeological violations under 36 CFR 296.15 or for violations of prohibitions and orders under 36 CFR part 261.

(o) Reaffirmation of prior decisions.

[54 FR 3362, Jan. 23, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 34510, Aug. 21, 1989]

#### § 251.84 Obtaining notice.

(a) A Deciding Officer shall promptly give written notice of decisions subject to appeal under this subpart to applicants and holders defined in § 251.86 of this subpart and to any holder of like instruments who has made a written request to be notified of a specific decision. The notice shall include a statement of the Deciding Officer's willingness to meet with applicants or holders to hear and discuss any concerns or issues related to the decision (§ 251.93). The notice shall also specify the name of the officer to whom an appeal of the decision may be filed, the address, and the deadline for filing an appeal.

(b) In States with Department of Agriculture certified mediation programs, a Deciding Officer shall also give written notice of the opportunity for the affected term grazing permit holder to request mediation of decisions to suspend or cancel term grazing permits, in whole or in part, pursuant to 36 CFR 222.4(a)(2)(i), (ii), (iv), (v) and (a)(3) through (a)(6). Such notice must inform the permit holder that, if mediation is desired, the permit holder must request mediation as part of the filing of an appeal.

[54 FR 3362, Jan. 23, 1989, as amended at 64 FR 37846, July 14, 1999]

#### § 251.85 Election of appeal process.

(a) No decision can be appealed by the same person under both this subpart and part 217 of this chapter.

(b) Should a decision be reviewable under this subpart as well as part 217 of this chapter, a party who qualifies to bring an appeal under this subpart can elect which process to use for obtaining review of a decision, but in so doing, the appellant thereby forfeits all right to appeal the same decision under the other review process. However, a holder who waives the right to appeal under the provisions of 36 CFR part 217 may intervene pursuant to 36 CFR 217.6(b).

#### § 251.86 Parties.

Only the following may participate in the appeals process provided under this subpart:

(a) An applicant who, in response to a prospectus or written solicitation or other notice by the Forest Service,