

a written notice to all parties to the appeal explaining the reason for making the changes and setting forth any terms or conditions that apply to the change.

(j) *Petitions to change a stay.* An appellant or intervenor may petition a Reviewing Officer to change or lift a stay at any time during the pendency of an appeal. Such petitions must be in writing, must explain how circumstances have changed since the stay was imposed, and must state why the change in the stay is being requested. The petitioner must send a copy of the petition to all parties to the appeal.

(k) *Appeal of stay decision or changes in stay.* A Reviewing Officer's decision to grant, deny, lift, or otherwise change a stay is not subject to further appeal and review, except when the first-level Reviewing Officer was the Forest Supervisor. In this instance, the Regional Forester has discretion to review.

[54 FR 3362, Jan. 23, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 34510, Aug. 21, 1989; 64 FR 37846, July 14, 1999]

#### § 251.92 Dismissal.

(a) The Reviewing Officer shall dismiss an appeal and close the record without a decision on the merits when:

(1) The appellant is not eligible to appeal a decision under this subpart.

(2) Appellant's notice of appeal is not filed within the required time period, or the notice of appeal fails to meet the minimum requirements of § 251.90 of this subpart to such an extent that the Reviewing Officer lacks adequate information on which to base a decision.

(3) In cases where there is only one appellant, the appellant withdraws the appeal.

(4) The requested relief cannot be granted under existing law, fact, or regulation.

(5) The decision is excluded from appeal under this subpart (§ 251.83).

(6) The Deciding Officer has withdrawn the decision under appeal.

(7) A request for review of the same decision has been filed by the same person under part 217 of this chapter.

(8) A mediated agreement is reached (§ 251.103).

(b) The Reviewing Officer shall give written notice of dismissal that includes an explanation of why the appeal is dismissed.

(c) A Reviewing Officer's dismissal decision is subject to discretionary review at the next administrative level as provided for in § 251.87(d), except when a dismissal decision results from withdrawal of an appeal by an appellant, withdrawal of the initial decision by the Deciding Officer, or a mediated resolution of the dispute.

[54 FR 3362, Jan. 23, 1989, as amended at 55 FR 7896, Mar. 6, 1990; 64 FR 37846, July 14, 1999]

#### § 251.93 Resolution of issues.

(a) Authorized Forest Service officers shall, to the extent practicable and consistent with the public interest, consult and meet in person, or by phone, with holders of written instruments prior to issuing written decisions related to administration of a written authorization. The purpose of such meetings is to discuss any issues or concerns related to the authorized use and to reach a common understanding and agreement where possible prior to issuance of a written decision.

(b) When decisions are appealed, the Deciding Officer may discuss the appeal with the appellant(s) and intervenor(s) together or separately to narrow issues, agree on facts, and explore opportunities to resolve the issues by means other than review and decision on the appeal, including mediation pursuant to § 251.103. At the request of the Deciding Officer, the Reviewing Officer may extend the time period to allow for meaningful negotiations, except for appeals under review at the discretionary level. In the event of mediation of a grazing dispute under § 251.103, the Reviewing Officer may extend the time for mediation only as provided in § 251.103.

(c) The Deciding Officer has the authority to withdraw a decision, in whole or in part, during the appeal. Where a Deciding Officer decides to withdraw a decision, all parties to the appeal and the Reviewing Officer must receive written notice.

[54 FR 3362, Jan. 23, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 34510, Aug. 21, 1989; 64 FR 37846, July 14, 1999]