



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Lewis and Clark  
National Forest  
White Sulphur Springs  
Ranger District

204 W. Folsom  
P.O. Box A  
White Sulphur Spr., MT 59645  
406 547-3361  
FAX 406 547-3874

---

File Code: 1950/5150

Date: March 21, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

The White Sulphur Springs Ranger District, Lewis & Clark National Forest, has made a decision to implement thinning treatments on approximately 345 acres to address outbreaks of Douglas-fir bark beetles in the Newlan Creek drainage. Treatments would be conducted under authority of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, Section 404, for the application of silvicultural treatments on land determined to be at risk of infestation by, or is infested with, forest-damaging insects. A Decision Memo is attached. You can also access the Decision Memo on our Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/projects/> titled "Newlan Bugs Applied Silvicultural Assessment."

The decision identifies a need to reduce stand densities within the project area to reduce the susceptibility of remaining trees to attack from Douglas-fir bark beetle. The project is being conducted in association with the Rocky Mountain Research Station, who will monitor the effectiveness of these treatments at reducing mortality. The study plan on which this project is based is available on request. Trees would be harvested using skyline and ground based skidding methods. Generally one-third to two-thirds of the trees will remain following treatment, including some of the largest trees and snags in the stand. I have incorporated design criteria and mitigation measures to reduce environmental impacts to natural resources including soils, water, and wildlife.

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215, as clarified in the court order dated October 19, 2005 by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California in Case No. CIV F-03-6386JKS. A written appeal must be submitted within 45 days following the publication date of the legal notice of this decision in the Great Falls Tribune, Great Falls, Montana. It is the responsibility of the appellant to ensure their appeal is received in a timely manner. The publication date of the legal notice of the decision in the newspaper of record is the *exclusive* means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Appellants should not rely on date or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Paper appeals must be submitted to:

USDA Forest Service, Northern Region  
ATTN: Appeal Deciding Officer  
P.O. Box 7669  
Missoula, MT 59807



Or

USDA Forest Service, Northern Region  
ATTN: Appeal Deciding Officer  
200 East Broadway  
Missoula, MT 59802  
Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Electronic appeals must be submitted to: [appeals-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us](mailto:appeals-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us)

In electronic appeals, the subject line should contain the name of the project being appealed. An automated response will confirm your electronic appeal has been received. Electronic appeals must be submitted in MS Word, Word Perfect, or Rich Text Format (RTF).

It is the appellant's responsibility to provide sufficient project- or activity-specific evidence and rationale, focusing on the decision, to show why my decision should be reversed. The appeal must be filed with the Appeal Deciding Officer in writing. At a minimum, the appeal must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 215.14, and include the following information:

- The appellant's name and address, with a telephone number, if available;
- A signature, or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the appeal);
- When multiple names are listed on an appeal, identification of the lead appellant and verification of the identity of the lead appellant upon request;
- The name of the project or activity for which the decision was made, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the date of the decision;
- The regulation under which the appeal is being filed, when there is an option to appeal under either 36 CFR 215 or 36 CFR 251, subpart C;
- Any specific change(s) in the decision that the appellant seeks and rationale for those changes;
- Any portion(s) of the decision with which the appellant disagrees, and explanation for the disagreement;
- Why the appellant believes the Responsible Official's decision failed to consider the substantive comments; and
- How the appellant believes the decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy.

If an appeal is received on this project there may be informal resolution meetings and/or conference calls between the Responsible Official and the appellant. These discussions would take place within 15 days after the closing date for filing an appeal. All such meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in attending any informal resolution discussions, please contact the Responsible Official or monitor the following website for postings about current appeals in the Northern Region of the Forest Service:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/projects/appeal\\_index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/projects/appeal_index.shtml).”

If no appeals are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of the decision may occur on, but not before, 5 business days from the close of the appeal filing period. When appeals are filed, implementation may occur on, but not before, the 15<sup>th</sup> business day following the date of the last appeal disposition.

The responsible official is Carol Hatfield, White Sulphur Springs District Ranger, 204 W. Folsom Box A, White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645, phone at 406-547-3361.

**CONTACT PERSON**

Additional information concerning this project and the project file contents are available at the Musselshell Ranger District, Box 1906, Harlowton, MT 59036, phone (406) 632-4391. Questions regarding this decision should be sent to Steven J. Martin at the above address and phone number.

Thank you for your interest in activities on your National Forest.

Sincerely,

CAROL HATFIELD  
District Ranger