

File Code: 1950-1

Date: October 20, 2006

Dear Interested Party:

On September 30, 2005, I made a decision for continued authorization of livestock grazing on the Gooding C&H Allotment. This decision was made through the issuance of a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Issues, and based on an Environmental Assessment.

On February 7, 2006, the U.S. District for the District of Idaho held that the Forest Service had completed a deficient environmental impact statement for the North Sheep grazing allotments on the Sawtooth National Forest. The Court directed the Forest Service to prepare a supplement to the Sawtooth Forest Land & Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to address management indicator species (MIS). On August 9, 2006, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the supplement to the Forest Plan FEIS was published in the Federal Register.

The Court also directed the Forest Service to prepare a supplement to the North Sheep FEIS to address capable and suitable grazing lands, grazing management prescriptions, monitoring plans, and specific adaptive management strategies.

My decision was issued prior to the February 7, 2006 court ruling. However, the Court Order directing that the Forest Plan FEIS supplement be completed affects my September 30, 2005 decision on livestock grazing on the Gooding C&H Allotment. Thus, I am rescinding my decision of September 30, 2005. Over this winter, my staff will review the analysis for this allotment with respect to the North Sheep court ruling. Any additional analysis needed to comply with the court order will be completed. My intent is to issue a new decision for the Gooding C&H Allotment sometime in 2007.

Because you have shown an interest in this project, you will be kept on our project mailing list, and informed of any new decision regarding this allotment.

Thank you for your interest in National Forest management.

Sincerely,

MIKE DETTORI
District Ranger

