David E Sire

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cc: Darci Birmingham/WO/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Julia Riber/WO/USDAFS@FSNOTES, David E Sire/WO/USDAFS@FSNOTES

Subject: Supplemental information needed for proposed limited timber harvest categorical exclusions

The Forest Service has drafted proposed categorical exclusions for limited timber harvest in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). The proposal is undergoing review by the Office of Management and Budget and should be published for public comment soon. You made an important contribution to this proposal by reviewing the effects of completed timber harvest projects. To ensure that our record is complete, the Forest Service and CEQ are requesting clarification of your finding of no significant cumulative impacts for the timber sales you reviewed in 2001. (CEQ regulations define cumulative impacts as the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions.)

We need your help in responding by August 30.

To keep the impact on your time to a minimum, we developed a set of questions in a Lotus Notes database. This link will take you to the Lotus database. On the left side of the window that opens, you will see an icon for Entry Form. You will have access to create, edit and delete your own records. Others will not be able to modify your data. Once you have opened this database, you will find that an icon called Cat Exclusions has been placed in your list of databases, accessed by the Databases icon on the left side of your Lotus Notes window. The attached document shows the locations of these icons.

icon info.doc

A sample project record is provided in the database, called "Sample" under Region 1, Kootenai National Forest. Double-click the Region to see the Forest; Double-click the Forest to see the project. Double-click the project name to view the data.

Your original data from the web-based input form is available on the FSweb at: http://fsweb.rsac.fs.fed.us/old/timber/results.php   You may want to bookmark this website for reference as you reply to this latest request. **This original data does not reflect any changes we may have made in any follow-up discussions with you.** We are maintaining an updated database in the WO but it isn't linked to the web. Consequently, we can only provide the original data set, linked to the web for your reference.

Questions should be directed to Dave Sire at (202) 205-2935, Julia Riber at (406) 329-3678, or Darci Birmingham at (202) 205-1759.

Dave Sire