

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
COEUR D'ALENE FIELD OFFICE**

Decision Record

Proposed Action: Mullan Forest Health Collaborative Project

EA Number: NEPA no. DOI-BLM-ID-C010-2011-0007-EA

Location of Action: T 47 N, R 5 E, B.M. Sections 1 and 2; T 48 N, R 5 E, B.M. Sections 25, 26, 27, 34 and 35

I. Decision

I have reviewed the public comments on the Proposed Action for the Mullan Forest Health Collaborative Project described in Environmental Assessment NEPA no. DOI-BLM-ID-C010-2011-0007-EA. As a result of these comments, my decision is to implement the Proposed Action (as summarized below):

Proposed Action:

- Reconstruct about ½ mile of an old mining road;
- Construct 1½ miles of permanent road with a 14 foot wide running surface;
- Close about 1⅞ miles of permanent road;
- Construct two metal gates on permanent roads;
- Install one low water crossing on an intermittent stream;
- Construct about ⅞ mile of temporary road that would be closed at the end of the project;
- Replace two structurally deficient creek crossing structures on Mill Creek with metal “squash bottom” culverts;
- Harvest trees located on 331 acres of forested land that could produce about 3 million board feet of timber;
- Decrease hazardous fuels on 18 acres of forested land adjacent to the Mullan municipal water supply tanks (2) and a power line supplying the water treatment building;
- Decrease fire hazard on 30 acres of forested land adjacent to the Avista Utilities power line that serves Hecla Mining Company’s Lucky Friday Mine;
- Construct a shaded fuel break on 20 acres of forested land by decreasing hazardous fuels;
- Construct one helicopter landing area (helispot);
- Conduct prescribed burning on 142 acres of south facing Ponderosa pine forests, and 20 acres on a north facing slope brush field with dead and dying lodgepole pine trees;
- Reforest about 50 acres of forest land with western white pine, and 0.2 acres with quaking aspen seedlings;
- Construct two, 300 foot long buck and pole fence enclosures to protect aspen seedlings;
- Precommercial thin 6 acres of forested land;
- Improve the scenic quality along ½ mile of property line;
- Implement hazardous fuels monitoring on treatment units;

- Implement wild fire effectiveness monitoring of the project;
- Perform maintenance of hazardous fuels during the next ten years on treatment units adjacent to the Mullan city limits.
- Construct a road south of Interstate 90 so firefighters can respond to fire faster;
- Close three existing road segments and one proposed road segment.
- To reduce disturbance of migratory bird species that may nest in the project area during the spring months, falling activities would not be allowed between May 15th and July 15th during normal spring seasons, but when the spring season comes late tree falling may be delayed until August 15th as determined by the Contracting Officer .

II. Rationale

The decision is in conformance with the Coeur d’Alene Resource Management Plan and was analyzed in detail. The proposed action would create an environment that will improve the health of the forest by regenerating dying lodgepole pine, thinning understory trees and conserving old trees. South facing slopes that provide habitat for old growth ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir trees will be revitalized by prescription burning. The proposed action would create a landscape that is more resilient to wildland fire and protect the urban interface.

/s/ Kurt Pavlat
 Kurt Pavlat
 Field Manager

August 6, 2012
 Date

III. Administrative Review Procedures

The decision described in this document is a forest management decision and is subject to protest by the public. In accordance with the Forest Management Regulations under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 5003 – Administrative Remedies, protests may be filed with the authorized officer, Kurt Pavlat, within 15-days of publication of the Notice of Decision in a local newspaper. The publication date of the Notice of Decision in the newspaper of record is the *exclusive* means for calculating the time to file a protest. Protestants should not rely on date or timeframe information provided by any other source.

43 CFR 5003.3 (b) states that: “Protests shall be filed with the Authorized Officer and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision.” This precludes the acceptance of electronic mail or facsimile protests. Only written and signed hard copies of protests that are delivered to the following address will be accepted:

Kurt Pavlat, Field Manager
 Coeur d’Alene Field Office
 3815 Schreiber Way
 Coeur d’Alene, Idaho 83815

The protest must clearly and concisely state which portion or element of the decision is being protested and the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error. Protests received more than

15 days after the publication of the notice of decision are not timely filed and shall not be considered.

Upon timely filing of a protest, the authorized officer shall reconsider the project decision to be implemented in light of the statement of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available. The authorized officer shall, at the conclusion of the review, serve the protest decision in writing to the protesting party(ies). Upon denial of a protest, the authorized officer may proceed with the implementation of the decision.

If no protest is received by close of business within 15 days after publication of the notice of decision, this decision will become final.

Contact Person

For further information regarding this project, contact Larry Kaiser (208-769-5023) or in writing at the above address.

Attachment: NEPA compliance document (EA)