



File Code: 2400, 2500, 1950

Date: November 28, 2012

Subject: Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact #2 for the Upper Greenbrier North Project

To: Interested Parties

Upper Greenbrier North Project Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact #2

I am writing to inform you of my latest decision for the Upper Greenbrier North (UGN) project. On March 5, 2012, I signed a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI) to implement the Selected Alternative, a modification of Alternative 5 in the UGN Environmental Assessment (EA). The UGN project area is located on the Greenbrier Ranger District, in the upper part of the Greenbrier River watershed, in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. A large project area was chosen to allow better consideration and analysis of cumulative impacts and landscape ecology factors such as spruce-hardwood ecosystem connectivity, age class distribution, and watershed improvement needs and opportunities.

My March 5, 2012 decision was appealed by Friends of Blackwater. As part of the appeal resolution, the Appeal Deciding Officer (MNF Forest Supervisor, Clyde Thompson) reversed the March 5, 2012 UGN DN/FONSI in a letter to the appellants dated June 6, 2012. Since then the MNF has been working to address applicable appeal points and recommendations from the Appeal Reviewing Officer and appellants.

Based on this work, I issued a corrected EA and a new decision on August 15, 2012. That decision authorized implementation of: road and trail decommissioning and road maintenance for watershed restoration; restoration of aquatic and riparian habitat and aquatic passage; recreation improvements; and prescribed burning. This decision was not appealed and we are now beginning to implement some of the activities.

I am now issuing a second DN/FONSI approving more of the activities for that project that were analyzed in the corrected EA. This second decision authorizes implementation of activities designed to restore spruce and spruce-hardwood ecosystems within the UGN landscape, including commercial and noncommercial spruce restoration, spruce thinning, timber stand improvement, nonnative invasive plant species treatments, and road work. These activities will help meet desired future conditions described in the 2006 Monongahela Land and Resource Management Plan. Updated in 2011. At least one more decision on the hardwood timber harvest activities in the UGN EA can be expected following more discussion with the appellants.

A copy of the DN/FONSI is included with this letter. The corrected EA is posted on the MNF website at: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=28198 due to its large size. If you would like a hard copy of the corrected EA, more copies of this DN/FONSI, or more information about the project, please contact us by any of the following methods:

1. By e-mailing a request to comments-eastern-monongahela-greenbrier@fs.fed.us;
2. By contacting David Ede at the MNF office in Elkins:
 - a. By mail: Monongahela National Forest, 200 Sycamore Street, Elkins, WV 26241;
 - b. By phone: 304-636-1800;
 - c. By fax: 304-637-0582;
 - d. In person at the MNF office in Elkins between the hours of 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM. If stopping by in person, please allow time for the document to be printed (approximately 1 hour); or
 - e. By e-mailing a request to: dede@fs.fed.us.

You may also contact me with questions or for more information at: Jack Tribble, District Ranger, Greenbrier Ranger District, PO Box 67, Bartow, WV 24920; (304) 465-3335; or jtribble@fs.fed.us. Also let us know what format you prefer for receiving information: hard copy; e-mail; or compact disk.

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to regulations at 36 CFR 215. An appeal may be filed by those who provided comment or otherwise expressed interest in the project during the initial 30-day notice and comment period. Appeal procedures are described in detail at the end of the enclosed DN/FONSI.

Thank you for your interest in the Monongahela National Forest.

Sincerely,



JACK TRIBBLE
Greenbrier District Ranger

11/28/12

Date



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