



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Malheur
National
Forest

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File Code: 1950

Date: February 6, 2004

Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the Flagtail Fire Recovery Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The Agency Preferred Alternative is Alternative 5. The publication date of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register is anticipated to be March 5, 2004.

The Record of Decision (ROD) has not been signed at this time. I am in the process of seeking a determination from the Regional Forester that an emergency situation exists in the Flagtail Fire Recovery Project pursuant to 36 CFR 215.10 (b). This emergency situation exists because substantial loss of economic value to the Federal Government due to further decay would occur if implementation of the decision were delayed through another summer. The final determination by the Regional Forester will be published in the ROD, 36 CFR 215.10 (d). If the Regional Forester determines that an emergency situation exists, I plan to publish the Notice of Decision on April 7, 2004 in the Blue Mountain Eagle, the newspaper of record. If the determination is made that an emergency situation does not exist, the Notice of Decision may be published sooner.

Copies of the FEIS are available at the Malheur National Forest Office in John Day, Oregon. The FEIS is also available on the Internet at www.fs.fed.us/r6/malheur.

I want to thank those of you who took the time to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Your interest in the management of the Malheur National Forest is appreciated.

Sincerely,

ROGER W. WILLIAMS
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

