



File Code: 1950 - NEPA

Date: November 14, 2002

Hello,

We have completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Record of Decision for the West Gold Project. It is now available in compact disc (CD) format, paper format, and on our Internet website at www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/eco/manage/nepa/index.html.

Most of you are receiving or viewing a copy of the FEIS in the same format that you received the Draft EIS, unless you previously indicated that you did not want to receive it. *Those of you who did not previously indicate a format are receiving a CD for viewing on a computer.* This is because CDs are much less expensive than paper copies to reproduce and mail. If you can't use a CD or would like a paper copy of the Summary, the full FEIS, or both, please don't hesitate to contact Judy York, the project team leader at the Sandpoint Ranger District office. Judy can be contacted by phone at 208-265-6665 or by e-mail at jyork@fs.fed.us.

Four alternatives (Alternatives A through D) were developed in response to major issues identified during our environmental analysis. Alternative A (No Action) would defer all activities that are not part of current management in the area. Alternative B (the Proposed Action) would accomplish the proposed activities described above. Alternative C proposes the same activities as Alternative B, but without any road construction. Alternative D would use mostly selective cutting methods to achieve our vegetation objectives and would build a minimal amount of new road. After reviewing all public comments and the Final EIS, **I have decided to implement Alternative C with a minor modification** that includes constructing 850 feet of road and a helicopter landing. Please read the Record of Decision for more details on my rationale for selection Alternative C. I encourage you to read the Summary for a good overview of the EIS.

If you commented on the Draft EIS, thank you for taking the time to do so. You will find our responses to your comments in Appendix J of the Final EIS.

A Notice of Availability should be published in the Federal Register on **November 29, 2002**. A legal advertisement will also be published in the Spokesman review on this date. This decision is subject to appeal for 45 days following the date of the legal ad in the Spokesman Review. No activities can begin for at least 15 days following the close of the appeal period. Details about appeal regulations are outlined on page 28 of the Record of Decision.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Judy York, the project team leader at (208) 265-6665.

Sincerely,

Ranotta K. McNair

RANOTTA K. MCNAIR
Forest Supervisor

