

## **Supplemental Information Report**

### **Review of New Information And Changed Circumstances in the Beagle Project Area November 20, 2002**

#### **Introduction**

In 1997 an environmental analysis was conducted and an environmental assessment (EA) was prepared which documented the effects of implementing alternative management strategies for the Beagle Project Area. On September 23, 1997 I made a decision to implement Alternative C with modifications. The decision was not appealed. The Beagle EA and Decision Notice authorizes implementation of the Beagle Timber Sale. This sale is currently under contract with Neiman Timber Company, L.C.

Circumstances have changed recently since the Decision and award of the sale, which may affect the project. Additionally, new information has been received on conditions within the project area which may affect the Beagle Timber Sale. This supplemental information report (SIR) documents my review of these changed conditions, and my determination concerning continued implementation of the decision of September 23, 1997, relative to the Beagle Timber Sale.

This review is conducted pursuant to Forest Service policy directives in FSH 1909.15, Chapter 10, Section 18. This determination is purely administrative and is not appealable.

#### **Background: The Beagle Timber Sale**

The Beagle Timber Sale area is located about 10 air miles southwest of Rapid City, South Dakota on lands administered by the Mystic Ranger District. It encompasses over 11,759 acres of National Forest System lands along with interspersed lands of other ownership. The topography is characterized by uplifted rock outcrops, rolling to broken timbered terrain with moderate to steep slopes, and is dissected by shallow to deep draws and canyons. The vegetation communities in the area are dominated by ponderosa pine.

The Beagle EA and Decision Notice for the Beagle Timber Sale are hereby incorporated by reference in this SIR. A copy is on file at the Supervisor's Office in Custer, SD. The focus of this project is implementing Forest Plan Goal 3: "Provide for sustained commodity uses in an environmentally acceptable manner." (EA, page 3).

There were four key issue categories generated through public involvement that were addressed in the EA (EA, page 6). They are summarized as follows:

- Need to protect, maintain and/or improve habitat of big game, sensitive species and other wildlife in the area.
- Support and opposition to timber harvest to improve wildlife habitat and to reduce fire risk.
- Concern about road impacts and the need for better travel management plus the desire for more/less access.

- Concern about the need to provide fire suppression access, carefully use prescribed fire to reduce fuels and improve wildlife habitat, treat slash and lower the risk of fire in the forest/private land interface.

The effects of implementing Alternative C as modified were disclosed in the EA. This discussion can be found in the EA, Chapter 4, Environmental Effects.

### **Changed Circumstances Since the Decision**

Since Forest Supervisor Twiss' decision on this project, conditions within the Beagle Timber Sale area have changed. These changes may have a bearing on management in the area, and it is proper to review them at this time.

#### **Changed Circumstance #1: Chief's Appeal Decision, Beaver Park Lawsuit and Settlement Agreement**

Background. On October 12, 1999 Forest Service Deputy Chief James R. Furnish issued an agency decision on the appeal by Biodiversity Associates, Sierra Club and others on the June 1997 decision by the Rocky Mountain Regional Forester to implement the Revised Forest Plan for the Black Hills National Forest. The decision was affirmed on the majority of issues, but some deficiencies were found with respect to protection for species viability. The Regional Forester was given instructions to strengthen the existing analysis and develop stronger protections for some species. In addition, requirements for Management Indicator Species (MIS) and monitoring direction for some sensitive species were to be improved.

In November 1999 appellants Biodiversity Associates and the Sierra Club filed a legal complaint alleging that the application of standards and guidelines from the Revised Forest Plan were inadequate to protect the viability of species in the Veteran Salvage Timber Sale within the Beaver Park roadless area. The Veteran Salvage Sale was to be implemented under the Veteran/Boulder project decision issued after the Revised Forest Plan. Specifically, the complaint charged that protections were inadequate for the northern goshawk, certain snag-dependent species of wildlife, and certain MIS. The complaint further charged the Forest was foreclosing options to designate Research Natural Areas (RNAs) by implementing ground-disturbing actions prior to full consideration.

The Forest Service entered into settlement discussions with the plaintiffs. The Court admitted three groups of defendant-interveners. The scope of the settlement discussions was broadened to include a number of timber sale project decisions issued under the Revised Forest Plan. In August 2000 the plaintiffs, the Government and two of the three intervening parties signed the settlement agreement. The Court subsequently adopted the agreement and issued an order dismissing the lawsuit. Terms of the settlement included additional protection for the goshawk, snag-dependent species, MIS and Montane grasslands.

Changes to the Beagle Timber Sale. The Final Settlement Agreement for Civil Action No. 99-N-2173 is hereby incorporated by reference in this SIR. To implement the terms of the Settlement Agreement certain changes were made to the Beagle Timber Sale. The changes are detailed in paragraphs 6(c), 6(d), and 6(e) and associated maps (*Reference – Dismissal Order and Settlement Agreement on file at the Black Hills National Forest Supervisor's Office*). To

summarize, road construction, reconstruction or logging is deferred within designated goshawk nest stands; in mature structural stages within one-half mile of goshawk nests; and in vegetation structural stage 5 as depicted on the referenced Settlement Agreement maps.

In the Beagle Timber Sale, portions of Unit 12 are in mature structural stages and fall within the one-half mile radius of a recorded goshawk nest, per the Settlement Agreement maps. The fire destroyed this nest and associated stand. The portions of Unit 12 (28 acres) that contained the nest, as depicted on the settlement agreement map, were previously excluded from the sale. This exclusion will remain in place.

Changes to Effects Disclosed in the EA. Measures such as eliminating portions of some harvest units for increased goshawk protection and deferring harvest of mature structural stages generally are more environmentally protective than the originally prescribed measures. Environmental effects are expected to be less than originally disclosed in the EA.

### **Changed Circumstance #2: April 2000 Snowstorm damage**

Background. In April 2000, a major spring snowstorm occurred. This storm deposited heavy wet snow throughout much of the east side of the Black Hills and was accompanied with high winds. As a result of this storm, large numbers of pine trees were broken off and some were uprooted throughout this area.

Changes to Beagle Timber Sale Due to Snowstorm Damage. Within the Beagle Project area similar damage occurred. Field reconnaissance revealed that most of the damaged pine were less than 9” in diameter and were scattered throughout the stands and units within the Beagle Timber Sale.

Changes to Effects Disclosed in the EA. This snowstorm damage has the silvicultural effect of providing a “natural thinning”. This has some minor beneficial effects of opening up stands and allowing some additional growth to adjacent pine that may have been overcrowded. The amount of overall damage and mortality was isolated enough in pockets to have no measurable effect on the timber resource. From a wildlife habitat perspective this damage has likely contributed to greater stand diversity and provided some additional snags. Pockets of down and damaged trees have altered travel routes for some game species but also provide an element of increased security.

The downed and broken biomass has created a substantial accumulation of fuels that poses an increased fire hazard within the Beagle Project area. Efforts to “clean up” concentrations along private land have been accomplished in the form of “fuel breaks” wherein all dead fuels were bucked and piled for removal by burning. Increased fuels generated by the storm exist sporadically within some of the timber sale units, primarily on the east end of the sale. Additional fuels reduction efforts will take place within timber sale units and throughout the remainder of the sale area using Fuels and KV funding.

### **Changed Circumstance # 3: August 2002 Battle Creek Fire**

Background. On August 16, 2002, the Battle Creek Fire ignited on private land along the South Rockerville Road. The fire spread rapidly and overpowered suppression efforts. By the time it was declared contained on August 25, 2002, it had burned 12,450 acres (approximately 9,120 acres of National Forest System lands and 3,330 acres of private land). This fire impacted portions of three timber sales: Beagle Timber Sale south of Highway 16 and both Hollow and Bitter Timber Sale just north of Highway 16 (see attached area map).

An initial assessment of the fire was conducted, effects disclosed and management recommendations made—see Final Battle Creek Fire Rapid Assessment Team (Battle RAT) Report, September 2002. The Battle RAT Report is hereby incorporated by reference into this SIR. This report correlated tree mortality with fire intensity and estimated that, within high intensity burn areas, tree mortality would be 90-100%. Within moderate intensity burn areas, tree mortality varied considerably from 10% to 100%. And within low intensity burn areas tree mortality would be less than 20%. Additionally, the report projected that ponderosa pine trees with less than 1/3 green crown remaining would eventually die as a result of the fire.

Changes to the Beagle Timber Sale due to the Fire. The Beagle Timber Sale, as initially configured, consisted of approximately 2,225 commercial treatment acres within a sale area of about 7,985 acres. The Battle Creek Fire burned an estimated 5,305 acres of the sale area. This covers about 66 percent of the sale area. Approximately 32 percent (1,676 acres) of the area that burned within the Beagle Timber Sale area boundary now contains dead trees that could be salvaged if harvested quickly.

The Timber Sale Contract Provision *B8.33 Modification for Catastrophe* provides for the modification of the contract to remove catastrophe-affected timber meeting utilization standards. This provision enables the purchaser to recover losses associated with the fire within the Beagle Timber Sale. Losses and difficulties encountered by the purchaser include harvest timing delays, loss of green volume and associated revenue, impacts to operations due to harvesting and processing of burned timber.

The changed conditions warrant adjustments to the Beagle Timber Sale. These adjustments include harvesting dead trees included both within and adjacent to units as initially configured within the sale area. Specifically, these adjustments include harvesting fire-killed trees in portions of 12 initial Beagle Timber Sale Units (Units 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 18) and dead trees in 19 newly configured salvage units (hereafter referred to as Units A – W as listed in Table 1).

Salvage potential is based on a number of criteria, such as relatively gentle slopes which minimizes potential negative effects to soils, and where the dead trees are of sufficient size and large enough numbers to provide for economic removal. Of the approximately 1,676 acres of timber that was killed and considered salvageable, about 1,027 acres are within initially planned sale units, 649 acres have been added as part of new salvage units. Original (pre-fire) timber sale contract volume was about 7.4 mmbf. Additional volume identified for salvage due to the fire totals about 1.5 mmbf, which is about a 20% increase from original contract volume.

Table 1 summarizes pre and post-burn conditions in Beagle Timber Sale Area. Units in which harvesting has been completed prior to the burn and not to be re-entered are not included in Table 1.

**Table 1. Beagle Sale Area Summary**

Unit	Pre-burn Conditions		Post-burn Conditions			
	Area (acres)	Volume (mbf)	Green		Dead	
			Area (acres)	Volume (mbf)	Area (acres)	Volume (mbf)
<b>Harvest and Salvage Inside Cutting Units</b>						
1	221	--	50	0	171	20
2	135	410	104	400	31	10
3	227	671	123	300	104	250
4	229	293	229	471	--	--
5	92	269	92	269	--	--
6	108	--	10	--	98	203
7	408	--	408	--	--	--
8	72	115	2	--	70	136
9	118	53	13	20	105	5
10	33	102	11	97	22	5
11	149	--	--	--	149	150
12	101	433	14	--	87	100
13	101	293	38	100	--	--
14	46	138	--	--	46	60
15	28	--	--	--	--	--
16	136	--	--	--	136	15
18	21	60	13	30	8	20
<b>Sub-totals</b>	2,225	2,837*	1,107	1,687	1,027	974
<b>Salvage Units Outside Cutting Units</b>						
A	13		--	--	13	40
B	35		--	--	35	120
C	9		--	--	9	8
D	88		--	--	88	100
F	11		--	--	11	10
G	38		--	--	38	66
H	9		--	--	9	4
I	9		--	--	9	50
J	8		--	--	8	74
K	4		--	--	4	4
L	45		--	--	45	4
M	50		--	--	50	51
N	85		--	--	85	121
P	70		--	--	70	400
Q	4		--	--	4	9
R	12		--	--	12	2
S	50		--	--	50	110
V	96		--	--	96	328
W	13		--	--	13	50
<b>Subtotals</b>	649				649	1,551
<b>TOTALS</b>	2,777	2,837	1,107	1,687	1,676	2,525

\*Sale volume remaining to be cut (pre-burn)

Fire-killed trees within sale units remain commercially valuable if removed to a mill within about one year of the fire occurrence, or no later than August 2003. After this time the quality of the wood degrades due to the action of agents such as blue stain fungus, wood boring insects and checking (splitting of the tree bole). Consequently commercial value drops significantly, effecting smaller saw-timber sized trees more quickly.

*Adjustment #1:* Original silvicultural harvest prescriptions were reviewed on a unit-by-unit basis by the review team including the silviculturist and wildlife biologist. The adjusted treatment prescribed specifies salvaging Ponderosa Pine killed by fire and/or insect agents and treating green pine as specified in the site-specific prescriptions.

Generally, ponderosa pine killed as a result of the Battle Creek Fire (either directly by the burn or indirectly by opportunistic insects and disease) will be harvested from existing cutting units within the Beagle Timber Sale and from salvage units outside the initial cutting units but within the sale area boundary. Table 2 lists the silvicultural prescriptions by existing (numbered) unit and salvage (lettered) units.

Merchantable sized pine are scattered throughout the entire area but per acre volumes in most of the areas is very low. Areas identified with sufficient quantities of merchantable pine for economical harvesting within the sale area have been identified and will be salvaged. Pine that has had 66% or more of the crown killed or scorched will be considered as mortality trees since the probability of their survival is very low. If these pine are not removed during the salvage operation they may attract pine bark beetles in their weakened state and be a source of mountain pine beetle or IPS beetle outbreak within the area.

In addition, these pine represent a loss in value recovered if not harvested immediately. Some of the sites were underburned and the original treatments will occur unless the amount of mortality was enough to require adjustments to bring the site into Forest Plan condition. Units 4, 5, and 7 are essentially outside the fire perimeter and will be treated as originally designed. See unit specific prescriptions in Table 2.

**Table 2. Beagle Timber Sale Adjusted Silvicultural Prescriptions**

Unit	Specifications
1,6,8,11,12,14,16	Remove merchantable dead ponderosa pine and ponderosa pine with 66% or more of the crown dead or scorched. <i>(Note: this applies to unit 12, but only outside the Goshawk exclusion area.)</i> Leave all other live pine. Leave tops and slash on site for soil stabilization. Lop and scatter slash to 18”.
2,9,10	Remove merchantable dead ponderosa pine and ponderosa pine with 66% or more of the crown dead or scorched. Harvest live as originally designated. Leave tops and slash on site for soil stabilization. Lop and scatter slash to 18”. <b>Outside the fire perimeter:</b> Harvest live pine as originally designated.
13	<b>Within the fire perimeter:</b> Leave all green and fire killed pine. <b>Outside the fire perimeter:</b> Harvest live pine as originally designated.
18	Remove merchantable dead ponderosa pine and ponderosa pine with 66% or more of the crown dead or scorched. Thin the remaining live pine to 70 BA. Leave tops and slash on site for soil stabilization. Lop and scatter slash to 18”.
3	Remove merchantable dead ponderosa pine and ponderosa pine with 66% or more of the crown dead or scorched. Harvest live as originally designated except in visual areas viewed from highway 16 where additional live pine should be retained for visuals. In the eastern portion of the unit retain groups (up to 1 ac) of live pine for regeneration and intra-stand diversity. Where 60% or more of the stand has evidence of high or moderate mortality retain live pine. Leave tops and slash on site for soil stabilization. Lop and scatter slash to 18”. <b>Outside the fire perimeter:</b> Harvest live pine as originally designated.
A,B,C,D,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,P,Q,R,S,V,W	Remove merchantable dead ponderosa pine and ponderosa pine with 66% or more of the crown dead or scorched. Leave all other live pine. Leave tops and slash on site for soil stabilization. Lop and scatter slash to 18”.

*Adjustment #2:* The SIR review team identified a need to prescribe a specific order of harvest entry into sale units. The order is a prioritization based on the following:

- The intent is to defer harvest in “green” units until the salvageable dead component is removed as discussed below. Table 3 displays all units with the special objectives provided by unit.
- There is a need to harvest units containing dead material as soon as possible to recover value in a timely manner.
- Contractually, removal of most of the dead timber first will be emphasized, prior to approval of operations in predominantly low intensity or no burn “green” units.

In all units listed in Table 3, retain any “live” trees not designated to be cut and with 1/3 or greater live crown, to provide for future snags and other resource needs such as green seed source.

Units must be accepted, and/or approved in writing, prior to entry into units in the next priority. The following are expected changes in harvest sequence per Table 3:

- Salvage the dead first: Remove the dead in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> priority units first.
- Harvest allowable green volume in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> priority units after the dead is removed.

**Table 3. Order of Harvest Entry**

Priority	Units*	Special Objectives
1	1,6,8,11,12,14,16,A-D, F-N,P-S,V-W	Salvage removal of dead, designation by damage class (DxDam). I.e., trees with less than 1/3 green crown are considered dead.
2	2,3,9,10,18	Salvage removal of dead, designation by damage class and removal of green per marking designation.
3	Units (or portions of units) not affected by burn (4,5,7,13)	Removal per initial specifications.

\*Units may be harvested in any order within priority level.

*Adjustment #3:* Many of the roads within the fire perimeter have been temporarily closed to travel by the public for resource protection and safety hazard purposes. When conditions permit, closure status will be assessed and implemented based on Beagle EA/DN travel management direction. Travel on these roads closed to the public is currently hazardous due to high numbers of dead trees that could fall on or adjacent to roads. This poses a significant safety hazard to timber sale contract personnel, and Forest Service administrative personnel who will enter the area. Many or most of these trees are expected to fall within the next five years (Battle RAT Report, pg. 77, 84, 96). There is an opportunity to substantially reduce the magnitude of this hazard by removing dead hazard trees along these roads now, under the sale contract.

A hazard tree is defined here as: one that has 50% or more of the crown scorched, burned tree stumps within 3 feet of a standing tree, 50% or more of the bole burned with streaming pitch, or shows signs of insect activity. In addition, the following guidelines will apply to hazard tree removal:

- Trees uphill from the road will be removed if they are within the length of the tree height plus 20' from the road edge.
- Trees downhill from the road or on level ground will be removed if they are within the length of the tree height from the road edge.
- If the tree is leaning toward the road, it should be removed if within the clearing limits defined above. If a tree is leaning away from the road, it will be left if within clearing limits defined above.
- Retain any trees with greater than 50% green crown that do not pose safety hazards. These trees will provide for future snags as well as a seed source.

*Adjustment #4:* Watershed protection requirements apply to the burned units:

- Design skid trails to minimize the concentration of runoff.
- Avoid storage or deposition of slash, log decks, and other materials within drainages.
- Avoid extensive disturbance of residual duff and litter.

- Avoid mechanical disturbance to compactive soils when wet--operate when dry or frozen.
- When falling trees to be retained on site, fall on the contour.
- In high intensity burn areas increase the ground cover by retaining limbs and tops of trees on the ground.
- In moderate intensity burn areas leave woody material to achieve 60% ground cover (“a torturous water path”) after harvest completion.
- In low intensity burn areas (where litter and duff layer were consumed) leave enough wood material to provide at least 60% groundcover after harvest completion.

### **Changes to Effects Disclosed in the EA:**

Based on site reviews by the team silviculturist, wildlife biologist, and documentation in the Final Battle RAT report, an overview of effects of the new information and changed circumstances relative to the timber sale are summarized as follows:

The effects of the Battle Creek Fire on the Beagle Timber Sale are varied. Some units sustained an under burn, killing most of the seedlings and saplings and leaving most of the larger trees undamaged. In other units, the fire burned in a mosaic pattern, killing patches of trees regardless of size. The most severe impact occurred in units that sustained moderate to high fire intensity, killing most if not all of the trees.

Wildlife habitat has been altered and/or eliminated in some areas within the burn. See discussion under cumulative effects below.

As part of the post-fire recovery effort, a 100% Heritage Resource Inventory has been completed on the Beagle Timber Sale area within the fire perimeter. No new historic and/or prehistoric properties were identified. New sites identified subsequent to this inventory and determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places will be protected through avoidance. No adverse effects are anticipated.

The total sale volume has been adjusted due to the changes documented in this SIR—see summary under “Changed Circumstance #3”.

### **Changes to Cumulative Effects Disclosed in the EA:**

Big game hiding cover and thermal cover has been reduced in the burned area. The amount of late-successional forest in the landscape has been reduced. These are habitat components that were present in limited amounts prior to the burn. It will take many years for these characteristics to be restored, regardless of whether or not the actions here are taken. No hiding or thermal cover or late-successional landscape that survived the fire will be harvested as part of the adjusted Beagle Timber Sale. Habitat for woodpeckers dependent on post-fire conditions has been substantially improved, within the fire area and throughout the Forest as a result of recent wildfires, prescribed burns, storm damage, and widespread IPS and mountain pine beetle outbreaks. Salvage of fire-killed trees within the Beagle Sale will not have a measurable effect on woodpecker populations. The fire destroyed the one known goshawk nest and stand within the sale area. There remains no unburned stands currently suitable for replacement goshawk habitat in the vicinity of the destroyed nest site. Considerable acreage of fire-killed trees will not be treated (steep slopes, rocky or inaccessible burned areas and areas of scattered larger trees). Not harvesting all dead trees provides post-fire wildlife and other habitat.

Productivity of the soils in high and moderate intensity burn areas also has been affected, especially where the organic layer was consumed. This can only be regained with time as the organic layer is built up. The retention of merchantable stemwood would not contribute significantly to the buildup of the organic layer. Grasses, forbs, and needle cast from timber stands will contribute significantly more biomass to the organic layer and future productivity. Leaving slash on the ground would also help rebuild the organic layer.

In areas of high burn intensity and steeper slopes, there is an increased potential for soil erosion. Design criteria that avoids concentrating overland flow and connecting disturbed areas to existing channels, utilization of designated drainage crossings for heavy equipment, and avoidance of steep slopes should minimize this potential.

Within all areas that were burned, fuels were reduced to varying degrees. The potential for wildfire in these areas has been reduced in the short term. However, over time as dead trees fall to the ground and new trees begin to grow, the fire hazard will increase due to the combination of high dead fuel loads and flashy young pine fuels. The result of a wildfire reburning in these areas could be significant damage to soils and other resources. Further, fire suppression efforts would be hampered within this wildland-urban interface area because the heavy fuel loads would impede access and fire line construction.

Some of the area that has burned is along the Highway 16 corridor, a heavily traveled route that carries visitors toward Mount Rushmore and the surrounding Black Hills. The visual impact of the fire would be partially mitigated through salvage of the fire-killed trees. Other burned areas would remain and provide for visual and other diversity on the landscape.

Silviculturally, there is a need for adjustments of prescriptions in order to meet Forest Plan goals and objectives. Some prescriptions have been modified to leave more green trees in the area than would occur under the initial prescriptions. Specifically, green (live) trees that were initially designated as cut trees will be left to replace fire killed trees that were designated for leave but will now be cut instead (Units 3 and 18). This change will leave more green (live) trees than the initial prescription in order to better meet silvicultural, wildlife and other objectives. The Battle Creek Fire has reduced the potential for natural regeneration to occur in some areas. In areas of high and moderate burn intensity, a large percentage of the pine has been killed. Some residual seed in areas where the organic soil layer remains will provide some regeneration. But future growth could be dependent upon pine seeding and/or possibly planting. Also, adjustments made to the prescriptions that will retain green trees within burned areas will provide a seed source for future regeneration.

No additional changes to the road system would be necessary to remove the fire-killed trees.

### **Conclusion:**

After reviewing the information above, I have determined that the environmental effects of implementing this project as summarized herein are within the scope of those analyzed in the Beagle EA. This project was designed to implement goals and objectives specified by the Forest Plan. This project continues to contribute to the management area emphasis on commodity production, big game winter range and late successional landscape. The focus of the Beagle Decision is on providing for sustained commodity uses...while meeting related Forest Plan Goals and Objectives. Irrespective of the changes resulting from the fire, I believe this project

will still contribute toward implementing the Forest Plan goals and objectives as originally intended. Thus, I see no need to change the original decision.

**Determination**

This completes my review of this supplemental information for the Beagle Timber Sale portion of the Beagle Environmental Assessment and Decision. I have reviewed the information furnished by the review team in this report, attachments and materials incorporated by reference.

It is clear that the circumstances have changed from those under which the original analysis was conducted and decision made. However, the information in this SIR does not present a significantly different picture of the impacts of the action than those presented in the EA. This project was designed to implement goals and objectives in the Forest Plan. I believe this project as adjusted will still contribute toward implementing those goals and objectives. The project, as adjusted, adequately responds to the four key issue categories addressed in the EA. The adjustments in implementation described in this report will result in environmental impacts comparable to the levels analyzed and disclosed in the EA supporting that decision. I believe these adjustments are not of a scale and scope that require a supplemental environmental assessment.

*/s/ David M. Thom*

*11/20/02*

*for*

JOHN C. TWISS  
Forest Supervisor

Date

**Participants in this Review**

**Core Team**

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**Other Assistance**

Ed Fischer, Black Hills NF	Environmental Coordinator
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**Attachments and References**

**Attachments**

Timber sale area map  
Fire intensity map (Beagle TS)

**References**

The Beagle Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice,  
Final Battle Creek Fire Rapid Assessment Team (Battle RAT) Report, Black Hills  
National Forest, September 2002.  
Dismissal Order and Settlement Agreement on file at the Black Hills National Forest  
Supervisor's Office