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EXAMPLE 3 - SAMPLE DN/DO

Decision Notice  
Designation Order

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Secretary of Agriculture under regulations at 7 CFR 2.42, 36 CFR 251.23, and 36 CFR Part 219, I hereby establish the Violetview Research Natural Area (RNA). It shall be comprised of 700 acres of lands in Green County, North Dakota, on the "DEF" District of the "ABC" National Forest, as described in the section of the Establishment Record entitled "Location."

The Regional Forester recommended the establishment of this RNA in the Record of Decision for the "ABC" National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) in 19xx [date of Record of Decision]. That recommendation was the result of an analysis of the factors listed in 36 CFR 219.25 and Forest Service Manual 4063.41. Results of the Regional Forester's analysis are documented in the Forest Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement which are available to the public.

The Regional Forester has reexamined the Violetview area to ensure that the environmental effects of establishing the area as an RNA have not changed since 19xx. This analysis is documented in the attached environmental assessment. Based on the analysis in the environmental assessment, it is my decision to adopt Alternative A, to establish Violetview as an RNA. Alternative A is selected because it provides long-term protection and recognition of relative dry subalpine forest types. The Violetview RNA will be managed in compliance with all relevant laws, regulations, and Forest Service Manual direction regarding RNA's, and in accordance with the management direction identified in the Forest Plan.

The alternatives considered was Alternative B, the "No Action" alternative which would continue management of Violetview as a "proposed" RNA. Alternative B was not selected because it would only provide short-term protection of the Violetview area.

Alternative B is consistent with the Forest Plan. Although the proposed action (Alternative A) is consistent with the management direction, it is not consistent with the land allocation for the Violetview Area in the Forest Plan. The "ABC" Forest Plan is hereby amended to change the allocation of the Violetview area from "Proposed" to Established RNA. This is a non-significant amendment of the Forest Plan (36 CFR 219.10(f)).

Legal notice of this decision will appear in the Federal Register. The Forest Supervisor of the "ABC" National Forest shall notify the public of this decision and mail a copy of the Decision Notice and Designation Order to all persons on the "ABC" Forest Plan mailing list.

[INSERT FONSI IF NOT SEPARATE DOCUMENT OR NOT PART OF EA]

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR Part 217. Two (2) copies of the Notice of Appeal must be in writing and submitted to:

The Secretary of Agriculture  
14th & Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Notice of Appeal prepared pursuant to 36 CFR 217.9(b) must be submitted within 45 days from the date of legal notice of this decision. Review by the Secretary is wholly discretionary. If the Secretary has not decided within 15 days of receiving the Notice of Appeal to review the Chief's decision, appellants will be notified that the Chief's decision is the final administrative decision of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (36 CFR 217.17(d)).

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Chief

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Date

EXAMPLE 1-3 - SAMPLE FONSI

[NOTE: THE FONSI MAY BE A SEPARATE DOCUMENT OR MAY BE COMBINED WITH THE EA OR THE DN/DO. IF SEPARATE, IT MUST INCLUDE A SUMMARY OF FINDING IN THE EA. THIS SAMPLE ASSUMES THAT FONSI WILL BE COMBINED WITH EITHER THE EA (COMMON FOR MANY PROJECTS) OR WITH THE DN/DO (COMMON FOR RNA'S.)]

It has been determined through the environmental assessment that the proposed action is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This determination is based on the following factors (40 CFR 1508.27):

A. Context.

Although this is an addition to the national system of RNA's, both short-term and long-term physical and biological effects are limited to the local area.

B. Intensity.

1. There are no known effects on public health and safety.
2. There are no known effects on historic or cultural resources, actual or eligible National Register of Historic places sites, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers. Effects on ecologically critical areas are minimal.
3. Effects on the human environment are not uncertain, do not involve unique or unknown risks, and are not likely to be highly controversial.
4. The action is not likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects.
5. There are no known cumulative effects.
6. The proposed action would not adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat.
7. The proposed action is consistent with Federal, State, and local laws and requirements for the protection of the environment.