

## §215.11

(c) *Implementation.* When it is determined that an emergency situation exists with respect to all or part of the decision, implementation may proceed as follows:

(1) Immediately after publication (§215.7(b)) of a decision documented in a Decision Notice, for that portion of the decision determined to be an emergency.

(2) Immediately when documented in a Record of Decision, after complying with the timeframes and publication requirements described in 40 CFR 1506.10(b)(2), for that portion of the decision determined to be an emergency.

(d) *Notification.* The Responsible Official shall notify the public in the legal notice of the decision (§215.7) that the Forest Service made a determination that all or part of a project decision is an emergency situation.

### §215.11 Decisions subject to appeal.

The following decisions are subject to appeal under this part:

(a) Decisions for projects and activities implementing land and resource management plans (§215.2) documented in a Record of Decision (ROD) or Decision Notice (DN), including those which contain a non-significant amendment to a land and resource management plan as a part of the decision;

(b) A new DN after revision of an environmental assessment (EA), or a new ROD after supplementation or revision of an environmental impact statement (EIS), pursuant to FSH 1909.15, Chapter 10, section 18. However, only that portion of the decision that is changed is subject to appeal.

(c) Decisions made in conjunction with other Federal agencies and meeting the requirements of preceding paragraph (a). However, only that portion of the decision made by the Forest Service affecting National Forest System lands (§215.2) is subject to appeal under this part.

(d) Decisions which affect the holders of a special use authorization or certain applicants for special use authorizations for use or occupancy of National Forest System lands (§251.86) and meeting the requirements of preceding paragraph (a), are subject to appeal by those same parties under either

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this part or part 251, subpart C, but not under both parts.

### §215.12 Decisions and actions not subject to appeal.

The following decisions and actions are not subject to appeal under this part, except as noted:

(a) The amendment, revision, or adoption of a land and resource management plan that includes a project decision, except that the project portion of the decision is subject to this part. The amendment, revision, or adoption portion of a decision is subject to either the objection process of §219.32 or the administrative appeal and review procedures of part 217 in effect prior to November 9, 2000 (*see* 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, Revised as of July 1, 2000);

(b) Determination, with documentation, that a new decision is not needed following supplementation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) or revision of an environmental assessment (EA) pursuant to FSH 1909.15, Chapter 10, section 18.

(c) Preliminary findings made during planning and/or analysis processes on a project or activity. Such findings are appealable only upon issuance of a decision document.

(d) Subsequent implementing actions that result from the initial project decision that was subject to appeal.

(e) Projects or activities for which notice of the proposed action and opportunity to comment is published (§215.5) and

(1) No substantive comments expressing concerns or only supportive comments are received during the comment period for a proposed action analyzed and documented in an EA (§215.6); or

(2) No substantive comments expressing concerns or only supportive comments are received during the comment period for a draft EIS (40 CFR 1502.19), and the Responsible Official's decision does not modify the preferred alternative identified in the draft EIS.

(f) Decisions for actions that have been categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS pursuant to FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30, section 31.

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(g) An amendment, revision, or adoption of a land and resource management plan that is made independent of a project or activity (subject to either the objection process of §219.32 or the administrative appeal and review procedures of part 217 in effect prior to November 9, 2000 (*see* 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, Revised as of July 1, 2000)).

(h) Concurrences and recommendations to other Federal agencies.

(i) Hazardous fuel reduction projects conducted under provisions of the HFRA, as set out at part 218, subpart A, of this title.

[68 FR 33595, June 4, 2003, as amended at 69 FR 1533, Jan. 9, 2004]

### § 215.13 Who may appeal.

(a) Individuals and organizations who submit substantive written or oral comments during the 30-day comment period for an environmental assessment, or 45-day comment period for a draft environmental impact statement (§215.6, 40 CFR 1506.10; FSH 1909.15, Chapter 20), except as provided for in paragraph (c) of this section, may file an appeal. Comments received from an authorized representative(s) of an organization are considered those of the organization only; individual members of that organization do not meet appeal eligibility solely on the basis of membership in an organization; the member(s) must submit substantive comments as an individual in order to meet appeal eligibility.

(b) When an appeal lists multiple individuals or organizations, each shall meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section. Individuals or organizations that do not meet the requirements of paragraph (a) shall not be accepted as appellants.

(c) Federal agencies may not appeal.

(d) Federal employees, who otherwise meet the requirements of this part for filing appeals in a non-official capacity, shall comply with Federal conflict of interest statutes at 18 U.S.C. 202–209 and with employee ethics requirements at 5 CFR part 2635. Specifically, employees shall not be on official duty nor use government property or equipment in the preparation or filing of an appeal. Further, employees shall not incorporate information unavailable to the public, *i.e.* Federal agency docu-

ments that are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552 (b)).

### § 215.14 Appeal content.

(a) It is the appellant's responsibility to provide sufficient project- or activity-specific evidence and rationale, focusing on the decision, to show why the Responsible Official's decision should be reversed (paragraph (b)(6–9)).

(b) The appeal must be filed with the Appeal Deciding Officer §215.8 in writing. At a minimum, an appeal must include the following:

(1) Appellant's name and address (§215.2), with a telephone number, if available;

(2) Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the appeal);

(3) When multiple names are listed on an appeal, identification of the lead appellant (§215.2) and verification of the identity of the lead appellant upon request;

(4) The name of the project or activity for which the decision was made, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the date of the decision;

(5) The regulation under which the appeal is being filed, when there is an option to appeal under either this part or part 251, subpart C (§215.11(d));

(6) Any specific change(s) in the decision that the appellant seeks and rationale for those changes;

(7) Any portion(s) of the decision with which the appellant disagrees, and explanation for the disagreement;

(8) Why the appellant believes the Responsible Official's decision failed to consider the substantive comments; and

(9) How the appellant believes the decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy.

(c) The Appeal Deciding Officer shall not process an appeal when one or more of the following applies:

(1) An appellant's identity is not provided or cannot be determined from the signature (written or electronically scanned) and a reasonable means of contact is not provided.

(2) The appellant has not provided a reasonable means of contact.

(3) The decision cannot be identified.