§ 219.33 Appeals of site-specific decisions.

If a site-specific decision is proposed in conjunction with a plan amendment or revision, a person may object to the proposed plan amendment or revision as described in §219.32. If a decision is made to authorize a site-specific action, a person may request administrative review of that decision as described in 36 CFR part 215.

APPLICABILITY AND TRANSITION

§ 219.34 Applicability.

The provisions of this subpart are applicable to all units of the National Forest System as defined by 16 U.S.C. 1609.

§ 219.35 Transition.

(a) The transition period begins on November 9, 2000, and ends upon the completion of the revision process (§219.9) for each unit of the National Forest System. During the transition period, the responsible official must consider the best available science in implementing and, if appropriate, amending the plan.

(b) Until the Department promulgates superseding planning regulations pursuant to the National Forest Management Act, a responsible official may elect to continue or to initiate new plan amendments or revisions under the 1982 planning regulations in effect prior to November 9, 2000 (See 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, Revised as of July 1, 2000), or the responsible official may conduct the amendment or revision process in conformance with the provisions of this subpart.

(c) If a review of lands not suited for timber production is required before the completion of the revision process,
the review must take place as described by the provisions of §219.28, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(d) The date by which site-specific decisions made by the responsible official must be in conformance with the provisions of this subpart is extended from November 9, 2003, until the Department promulgates superseding planning regulations pursuant to the National Forest Management Act. Within 1 year of November 9, 2000, the Regional Forester must withdraw the regional guide. When a regional guide is withdrawn, the Regional Forester must identify the decisions in the regional guide that are to be transferred to a regional supplement of the Forest Service directive system (36 CFR 200.4) or to one or more plans and give notice in the Federal Register of these actions. The transfer of direction from a regional guide to a regional supplement of the Forest Service directive system or to one or more plans does not constitute an amendment, revision, or site-specific action subject to Forest Service NEPA procedures.

(f) Within 3 years after completion of the revision process for a unit, the responsible official must complete the first monitoring and evaluation report as required in §219.11(f).

(g) Within 1 year of November 9, 2000, the Chief of the Forest Service must establish a schedule for completion of the revision process for each unit of the National Forest System.

Appendix A to §219.35

Interpretative Rule Related to §219.35(b)

The Department is making explicit its pre-existing understanding of §219.35(b) with regard to the appeal or objection procedures that may be applied to amendments or revisions of land and resource management plans during the transition from the appeal procedures in effect prior to November 9, 2000, to the objection procedures of §219.32 as follows:

1. During the transition period, the option to proceed under the 1982 regulations or under the provisions of this subpart specifically includes the option to select either the objection procedures of this subpart or the optional appeal procedures published at 54 FR 3357 (January 23, 1989), as amended at 54 FR 13807 (April 5, 1989); 54 FR 34509 (August 21, 1989); 55 FR 7895 (March 6, 1990); 56 FR 4918 (February 6, 1991); 56 FR 46950 (September 13, 1991); and 58 FR 59015 (November 4, 1993).

Appendix B to §219.35

Interpretative Rule Related to §219.35(a) and (b)

The Department is clarifying the intent of the transition provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of §219.35 with regard to the consideration and use of the best available science to inform project decisionmaking that implements a land management plan as follows:

1. Under the transition provisions of paragraph (a), the responsible official must consider the best available science in implementing and, if appropriate, in amending existing plans. Paragraph (b) allows the responsible official to elect to prepare plan amendments and revisions using the provisions of the 1982 planning regulation until a new final planning rule is adopted.

2. Until a new final rule is promulgated, the transition provisions of §219.35 remain in effect. The 1982 rule is not in effect. During the transition period, responsible officials may use the provisions of the 1982 rule to prepare plan amendments and revisions. Projects implementing land management plans must comply with the transition provisions of §219.35, but not any other provisions of the 2000 planning rule. Projects implementing land management plans and plan amendments, as appropriate, must be developed considering the best available science in accordance with §219.35(a). Projects implementing land management plans must be consistent with the provisions of the governing plan.

Definitions

§219.36 Definitions.

Definitions of the special terms used in this subpart are set out in alphabetical order in this section as follows:

Adaptive management: An approach to natural resource management wherein the effects of policies, plans, and actions are monitored for the purpose of learning and adjusting future management actions. Successive iteration of the adaptive process is essential in contributing to sustainability.

Assessment or analysis area: The geographic area included within the scope of a broad-scale assessment or local analysis.

Candidate species: Species identified by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which are considered to be candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act as published in the Federal Register.