



Forest  
Service

Sierra  
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Forest

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**File Code:** 1950-3

**Date:** February 11, 2008

**Route To:**

**Subject:** KRP Decision Withdrawal

**To:** Regional Forester

I have decided to withdraw the Record of Decision (ROD), dated December 20, 2006, for the Kings River Project (KRP) on the High Sierra Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest. No actions will be implemented pursuant to that ROD.

Since the ROD was signed for the KRP, the Sierra National Forest and Pacific Southwest (PSW) Research have been working diligently in pursuing a collaborative approach with interested parties to develop scientifically sound silviculture prescriptions for forest ecosystem restoration. These prescriptions would be applicable to the KRP and other projects in the southern Sierras. This effort is ongoing and has shown some promise.

During this collaborative process, additional information has been developed that will help analyze effects of restoration projects on sensitive wildlife species like fisher. This additional information comes from work done by the Conservation Biology Institute (CBI) and local research by PSW. A new multi-forest Plan Amendment has also been issued for analysis of management indicator species (MIS).

There is a strong potential for the collaborative efforts and/or new information to change the timing, description, and location of activities within the KRP that would require supplementing the FEIS and publishing a new ROD.

Based on the above, I am proceeding with a notice to supplement the FEIS. The Notice of Intent (NOI) will be released shortly followed by a draft SEIS and final SEIS with a new ROD issued in early summer. The new ROD will be subject to appeal under 36 CFR 215. Depending on whether there are appeals, the decision would be implemented this summer or early in the fall of 2008. While this is a setback on implementing important watershed research and fuel reduction activities, the resulting product will reflect considerable new information and incorporate the ongoing collaborative efforts into a more informed decision.

*/s/ Edward C. Cole*  
EDWARD C. COLE  
Forest Supervisor



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cc: Mark Smith