United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Nez Perce-Clearwater National ForestsLochsa-Powell Ranger Districts
502 Lowry Street
KooskiaID83539
208-926-4274208-926-6450

File Code: 1950
Date: September 6, 2019

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Please review the enclosed project proposal. The Lochsa-Powell Ranger District and other Forest Service staff will be analyzing the anticipated impacts from treatment activities in the near future.

You are being notified of this proposal because you have expressed interest in land management projects on the Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests or because you live in close proximity to the project area.

A Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team working with Lochsa-Powell Ranger District have completed a preliminary assessment for the project proposal and have determined that it falls within a category of actions that are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This preliminary assessment determined that the following project falls within the scope of a Categorical Exclusion (CE). Specifically, Category 6 (36 CFR 220.6(e)(6)) "Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction." Please respond with any comments regarding the proposed actions.

Regulatory Framework

The Pete King Wildlife Habitat Restoration project will be designed to meet all applicable laws, including but not limited to the National Forest Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Idaho State Water Quality Standards and Clean Water Act, and National Historic Preservation Act. The project will also be designed to meet all applicable standards found in the Clearwater National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, including those within Management Areas C4 and E1, where proposed activities would occur.

Request for Comments

We would like to encourage your participation during our public scoping process. This scoping and period provides those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. This letter initiates this 30 day scoping period; to be most effective, please provide your comments by October 5th, 2019. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Those who respond to this invitation for comments will be notified when a decision is made.

Please submit written comments to Chandra Neils, North Idaho Strike Team NEPA Specialist, Lochsa-Powell Ranger District, 502 Lowry Road, Kooskia, Idaho, 83539. The office business

hours for those wishing to comment in person or by phone are 7:30 am – 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays (phone 208-926-4274). Comments may be faxed to (208)-926-6450. Comments in rtf, MS Word, or Word Perfect format can be emailed to: comments-northern-clearwater-lochsa@usda.gov. Please include the name of the project in the subject line.

For more information, please contact Chandra Neils or Dan Fabbi (NIST NEPA Planner, and Forester, respectively) at the Lochsa-Powell Ranger District (208)-926-4274 or visit our project website at https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56079.

Thank you for your continued participation in projects involving the Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests.

Sincerely,

BRANDON KNAPTON
Lochsa-Powell District Ranger

Enclosure: Project proposal information and related map.