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# AMENDMENTS TO THE NEZ PERCE 1987 FOREST PLAN

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Amending the Nez Perce National Forest Plan is a normal process of improving our ability to care for the land. The need to amend the Plan was anticipated at the outset. As of July 21, 2015, thirty-nine amendments have been issued.

Following are summaries of those amendments made to date. A copy of any amendment(s) can be obtained by contacting the Nez Perce National Forest's Supervisor's Office.

## **Amendment #1:**

Clarifies our intent to protect potential Wild and Scenic Rivers upon their inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system, by providing more detailed forest-wide standards.

Proposed changes in the management standards were developed following guidance contained in the Wild and Scenic River Evaluation section of the Forest Service Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 8). [10/88]

## **Amendment #1 (Revised):**

Revised Forest Plan Amendment #1 is exactly the same as the original amendment except that the following statement has been removed. The amendment was necessary to settle and appeal of Amendment #1. [1/91]

"Boundaries may include adjacent areas needed to protect the resources or facilitate management of the river corridor."

## **Amendment #2:**

Clarifies the Forest's definition and management of motorized recreation on the Nez Perce National Forest. [10/88]

## **Amendment #3:**

Modifies standards listed in Chapter II (Forest-wide Management Direction) and Chapter III (Management Area Direction). Clarification is provided in changes to the minerals section of Chapter VI (Summary of the Analysis of the Management Situation) and the glossary and monitoring items.

The specific standards modified are those relating to minerals, wildlife, fish, and riparian area management; and to provide clarification that will not alter the multiple use goals and objectives as identified in the Forest Plan.

The need for changes and clarification in management standards was the result of negotiations with the Independent Miners Association's appeal of the Nez Perce National Forest Plan. An interdisciplinary team developed the settlement agreement that addressed then appellant's concerns and a proposal for correcting the Plan. [3/89]

#### **Amendment #4:**

Modifies standards listed in Chapter II (Forest-wide Management Direction), modifies the visual resource standards in Chapter III (Management Area Direction), and modifies specific monitoring requirements in Forest Plan Appendix O dealing with visual resource management.

The need for changes and clarification in management standards was the result of environmental analysis of proposed timber sales and road construction in the Wing Creek-Twenty mile area. During the comment period of the Wing Creek-Twenty mile Draft Environmental Impact Statement, concern was expressed on conflicting Forest Plan language pertaining to visual resource management. An interdisciplinary team was used to analyze the concerns and develop a proposal for correcting the Forest Plan. [3/89]

#### **Amendment #5:**

Corrects errors displayed in the Nez Perce National Forest Plan Appendix A, Forest Fishery/Water Quality Direction by Prescription Watershed. These objectives provide management direction in terms of the maximum estimated increase in sediment over baseline conditions that can be approached or equaled for a specific number of years per decade.

Some of the changes are planning errors made in identifying sediment yield and entry frequency guidelines. Site-specific analysis and stream surveys have also revealed that some streams were incorrectly identified as not supporting anadromous fish. The errors were identified through environmental analysis of proposed timber sales and road construction. An interdisciplinary team was used in identifying the needed changes and proposing the corrections. [3/89]

#### **Amendment #6:**

Corrects errors in Forest Plan Chapter II (Forest-wide Management Direction), Chapter III (Management Area Direction), Chapter V (Implementation), Chapter VII (Glossary), and Appendix A (Fishery/Water Quality Direction). The corrections made in this Forest Plan amendment provide clarification that will not alter the multiple use goals and objectives as identified in the Forest Plan.

An error was identified through environmental analysis of a proposed timber sale and associated road construction and habitat improvement project. Forest Plan Appendix A describes current fishery habitat quality in the West Fork of Red River (Prescription Watershed 17060305-04-18) as 50 percent of potential habitat quality. The West Fork of Red River is in a pristine natural condition. This watershed is roadless and no management activities are known to have occurred in either the watershed or the stream. The stream is, therefore, in a pristine, natural condition and it is appropriate to display it at 100 percent of potential habitat quality.

The Forest Interdisciplinary Monitoring Team identified additional typographical errors in the Forest Plan. This Forest Plan amendment includes the correction of those errors. [7/89]

#### **Amendment #7:**

Clarifies language founding the following sections:

- Chapter II (Forest-wide Management Direction)
- Chapter V (Implementation)
- Chapter VI (Summary of the Analysis of the Management Situation)
- Appendix O (Forest Plan Monitoring)

The specific items modified provide clarification that will not alter the multiple use goals and objectives as identified in the Forest Plan.

The need for changes and clarification in management standards was the result of negotiations with the Nez Perce Indian Tribe on their appeal of the Nez Perce National Forest Plan. An interdisciplinary team was used in developing the settlement agreement that addressed the appellant's concerns and developed a proposal for correcting the Forest Plan. [1/90]

#### **Amendment #8:**

The purpose of the Forest Plan Amendment #8 is to clarify language in Appendix O (Forest Plan Monitoring Requirements).

During this past year the Forest Interdisciplinary Monitoring and Evaluation Team identified some items in the Forest Plan Monitoring Requirements Appendix that need correction or clarification.

These items focus on fish and wildlife monitoring. Specifically, the changes relate to forage production, wildlife population trends, and fisheries/watershed monitoring station costs.

The corrections made in this Forest Plan amendment provide clarification that will not alter the multiple use goals and objectives as identified in the Forest Plan. [1/89]

#### **Amendments #9 and #10:**

These amendments deal with management practices specific to the Cove and Mallard Timber sales as described in the Final Environmental Impact Statements for those sales. Amendment No. 9 was formally adopted in the Mallard Record of Decision, and Amendment No. 10 was formally adopted in the Cove Record of Decision. Both of these amendments correct oversights in the Forest Plan.

These two amendments apply only to the timber sales analyzed in the Cove and Mallard Environmental Impact Statements. They do not apply to other timber sales on the Forest.

The two amendments will allow clear-cutting and sanitation/salvage harvesting within Management Areas 12 and 17. (11/90)

#### **Amendment #11:**

Forest Plan Amendment No. 11 makes adjustments in the Forest-wide monitoring program and updates the fish/water quality objectives in Appendix A to the Plan. The Forest Interdisciplinary Monitoring Team in the Nez Perce National Forest Monitoring and Evaluation Report recommended the changes in the monitoring program for Fiscal Year 1989; the objective was to make the program more comprehensive. The revised fish/water quality objectives are based on recent stream surveys. Specific changes in both the monitoring program and the fish/water quality objectives are listed in the Decision Memo for Amendment No 11. (1/91)

#### **Amendment #12:**

Amendment 12 makes minor changes to the Wall Creek Municipal Watershed direction (Management Area 22) contained in the Nez Perce Forest Plan. These changes relate to improving the range of management practices identified in the Forest Plan, and specifically to items such as notifying the water district if a fire occurs in the watershed and taking special precautions with machinery and chemicals. (2/91)

**Amendment #13:**

Amendment 13 brings the Plan into compliance with legal requirements and Forest Service directives dealing with animal damage control. It should be noted that the amendment does not authorize any specific projects. (4/91)

**Amendment #14:**

This (3/91) amendment would partition the allowable sale quantity (ASQ) by separately showing the ASQ that came from inventoried Roadless areas and roaded areas. Thirteen Forest Plans in the Northern Region were amended. The decision was appealed to the Chief of the Forest Service who affirmed the decision. The Secretary of Agriculture opted to review the Chief's appeal decision and reversed the decision in October 1991, thereby vacating and voiding Amendment 14 of the Nez Perce Forest Plan.

**Amendment #15:**

Amendment 15 amends the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Management Plan and the Forest and Land Management Plans for the Bitterroot, Boise, Challis, Payette, Nez Perce, and Salmon National Forests.

The amendment changes wording in the Wilderness Management Plan related to reducing the storage of items and removal of plumbing fixtures from the wilderness. The amendment only modifies the schedule of implementation. (6/91)

**Amendment #16:**

Amendment 16 adopts programmatic changes in management direction for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. These changes should enable wilderness managers to better meet both the letter and the intent of the Wilderness Act. (2/92)

**Amendment #17:**

Amendment 17 allows salvage timber harvest within Management Area 20 (old growth wildlife habitat) following the Scott Fire. Analysis showed that salvage harvest would help to speed up the achievement of old-growth vegetative characteristics in the burned area. This amendment is specific to the Scott Fire salvage sale and will not apply to other areas on the Forest. (4/93)

**Amendment #18:**

Amendment 18 brings the Forest Plan into compliance with a court order that addresses outfitter and guide operations in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. (7/94)

**Amendment #19:**

Amendment 19 adds more specific management direction for vegetation in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness General Management Direction. It establishes goals, objectives, standards and guides, and monitoring elements for vegetation within ecosystem management principles. It addresses such issues as: noxious weeds, rare plant protection, vegetative diversity, and management of pack and saddle stock. (2/95) [Note: Based on negotiations with appellants, the decision was rescinded in May 1995. A new amendment/decision, which provides additional clarification, is expected in FY 95.]

**Amendment #20:**

The Nez Perce Forest Plan was amended by the Chief of the Forest Service to incorporate an interim strategy for managing anadromous fish producing watersheds (PACFISH). (2/95)

**Amendment #21:**

This was a project specific amendment based on the analysis contained in the Hungry-Mill Final Environmental Impact Statement. The amendment changed the summer elk habitat potential objective from 50 percent to 25 percent on 2,838 acres within the Hungry-Mill analysis area. (3/97)

**Amendment #22:**

This was a project specific amendment based on the analysis contained in the Berg Timber Sale Environmental Analysis. The amendment allows timber harvest within Management Area 20 (old-growth wildlife habitat) in order to improve and maintain the long-term sustainability of the ponderosa pine communities in designated areas of the Berg Timber Sale. The amendment is only valid for the contract life of the timber sale and does not apply to future actions in this area or elsewhere on the Forest. (1/97)

**Amendment #23:**

This amendment corrects summer elk analysis units and objectives that were mismatched in the original Forest Plan. (7/97)

**Amendment #24:**

This was a project specific amendment based on the analysis contained in the Hungry-Mill Final Environmental Impact Statement. The amendment updated Forest Plan Appendix A information for several watersheds in the Hungry-Mill analysis area to account for new information on the species of fish that exist in these watersheds. (8/97) **The amendment was challenged in court and subsequently withdrawn in (5/98)**

**Amendment #25:**

This was a project specific amendment based on the analysis contained in the Middle Fork Final Environmental Impact Statement. The amendment allows timber harvest within Management Area 20 (old-growth wildlife habitat) in order to improve and maintain the long-term sustainability of the ponderosa pine communities in unit F Middle Fork Timber Sale. The amendment is only valid for the contract life of the timber sale and does not apply to future actions in this area or elsewhere on the Forest. (10/97)

**Amendment #26:**

This was a project specific amendment based on the analysis contained in the Middle Fork Final Environmental Impact statement. The amendment updated forest Plan Appendix A information for three watersheds in the Middle Fork analysis area to account for new information on the species of fish that exist in these watersheds. (10/97)

**Amendment #27:**

This was a project specific amendment based on the analysis done for the East Meadow Creek Prescribed Fire Project. The analysis identified the need to allow short term, human-caused, fire related sediment increases that approximate natural variations in the stream. The amendment changes fish habitat and water quality objectives listed in Appendix A for 8 watersheds. The amendment is only valid for the life of the prescribed fire project and does not apply to future actions in this area or elsewhere on the Forest. (2/99)

**Amendment #28:**

This amendment will change fishery/water quality objectives and/or sediment yield guidelines listed in Appendix A of the Nez Perce Forest Plan as amended in 1991 (Amendment 11). When finalized, this amendment will be valid until the Forest Plan is revised or a separate amendment changes it. (2/11/03)

**Amendment #29:**

This amendment will allow timber harvest within Management Area 20 within the Meadow Face analysis area on the Clearwater Ranger District. This amendment suspends the Management Area 20, Section C, Timber resource Element, Standard #2, that states: "Schedule no timber harvest in existing old-growth until decade 10. Schedule no timber harvest in replacement old-growth stands until decade 16." This amendment is specific to units 13, 20, 21, and 27 approved by the Meadow Face Stewardship Pilot Project EIS and ROD. This amendment is valid only for these actions as described in the Meadow Face Stewardship Pilot Project EIS and ROD and does not apply to any future action in this area nor elsewhere on the Forest. (2/11/03)

**Amendment #30:**

This is a site-specific amendment of Forest Plan soil quality standard #2 for lands within the Meadow Face Stewardship Pilot Project analysis area. This site-specific amendment would allow the Meadow Face project to proceed even though some project activity areas will not maintain the minimum 80 percent non-detrimentally disturbed soil condition upon completion of activities that is called for in standard #2. The soil assessment for the Meadow Face project area has identified widespread detrimental disturbance caused by past activities. The Meadow Face project will implement soil restoration activities concurrent with other management activities, and provide a net improvement in soil conditions. (2/11/03)

**Amendment #31:**

Reference Pages: III-28 to III-29 for Management Area 9.3. Replaces Management Standards - Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Management Plan (Appendix L) with the revised Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Management Plan (12/2003). This amendment was necessary as previous direction in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Management Plan (as amended July 1994); the Middle Fork of the Salmon River Management Operating Plan (5/20/93); and the Salmon Wild & Scenic River Management Plan (3/30/82) is now consolidated into a single management plan with corrections, changes and amendments. (1/22/2004)

**Amendment #32:**

This amendment will allow timber harvest within Management Area 20 within the Clean Slate analysis area on the Salmon Ranger District. This amendment exempts the Management Area 20, Section C, Timber Resource Element, Standard #2, that states: "Schedule no timber harvest in existing old-growth until decade 10. Schedule no timber harvest in replacement old-growth stands until decade 16." This amendment is valid only for these actions as described in the Clean Slate Project EIS and ROD and does not apply to any future action in this area nor elsewhere on the Forest. Exception: Timber harvest is permitted in all or parts of the designated old growth habitat located within the Clean Slate analysis, but outside roadless area 1850, during the life of any timber sale to improve and maintain the long term sustainability of this ponderosa pine community. (6/9/2004)

**Amendment #33:**

This is a site-specific amendment of Forest Plan soil quality standard #2 for lands within the Red Pines Project analysis area. This site-specific amendment would allow the Red Pines project to proceed despite the fact that several proposed fuel reduction units currently exceed the 20% compacted, displaced or puddle standard for soils called for in standard #2. The amendment will change the standard for the Red Pines project to 15% detrimental soil conditions, and the cumulative detrimental soil disturbance shall not exceed the conditions prior to the planned activity and shall provide a net improvement in soil quality. (11/2/2006)

**Amendment #34:**

This amendment will allow fuel hazard reduction and watershed improvement activities in Red River watershed concurrently with aquatic improvement activities, as long as an upward trend is indicated; to update Appendix-A Table A-1 based on new information for several prescription watersheds; a one time exceedance of Appendix A sediment yield guidelines for some Red Pines watersheds. (11/2/2006)

**Amendment #35:**

This amendment will allow management derived sediment in Newsome watershed concurrently with aquatic improvement activities, as long as an upward trend is indicated; to update Appendix-A Table A-1 with a footnote for some of the Newsome watersheds (03/26/2007)

**Amendment #36:**

This amendment provides management direction for Forest System Lands known to be occupied by Canada Lynx. The objectives, standards, and guidelines apply to all management projects in lynx habitat, in lynx analysis units, in occupied habitat and in linkage areas. They do not apply to wildfire suppression or to wildland fire use.(03/23/2007)

**Amendment #37:**

This is a site-specific amendment of Forest Plan soil quality standard #2 for lands within the Lodge Point Project analysis area. This site-specific amendment would allow the Lodge Point project to proceed despite the fact that several proposed commercial thinning units currently exceed the 20% compacted, displaced or puddle standard for soils called for in standard #2. The amendment will change the standard for the Lodge Point project to 15% detrimental soil conditions, and the cumulative detrimental soil disturbance shall not exceed the conditions prior to the planned activity and shall provide a net improvement in soil quality. (09/30/2011)

**Amendment #38:**

This is non-significant project-specific amendment of Forest Plan soil quality standard #2 is for lands within the Crooked River Valley Rehabilitation Project analysis area. This project-specific amendment allows the Crooked River Valley Rehabilitation project to proceed despite the fact that the project activity area currently exceed the 20% compacted, displaced or puddle standard for soils called for in standard #2. This project-specific amendment would exempt the Crooked River Valley Rehabilitation project from Forest Plan Soil quality standard #2 in order to facilitate the restoration of productivity in the project area. (7/21/2015)

**Amendment #39:**

This non-significant project-specific amendment of Forest Plan – Cultural resource standards #2 and #4; and Management Area 3 – Cultural resource standard #4 is for lands within the Crooked River Valley Rehabilitation project area. The project-specific amendment allows rehabilitation of the Crooked River Valley that contains a National Register Site created from past mining activities (Site SHC-32). The project will complete rehabilitation actions on the historic property. In addition, design and mitigation measures specifically developed to ameliorate this adverse effect to the National Register Historic Site characteristics. This project-specific amendment would exempt the Crooked River Valley Rehabilitation project from Forest Plan from these standards. (7/21/2015)