



## Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

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# News Release

## Clear Creek Integrated Restoration Project Updated FEIS and Final ROD released

Kamiah, Idaho (December 17, 2015) – The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests have issued a Final Record of Decision (ROD) for the Clear Creek Integrated Restoration Project (CFLRP). The project is the first landscape-scale analysis associated with the Selway-Middle Fork CFLRP area.

The Project's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) presents and analyzes options for restoring forest vegetation and improving watershed conditions within the nearly 44,000-acre Clear Creek analysis area. The proposed treatments are expected to improve long-term resilience of vegetation, reduce fuels, improve habitat for a variety of species including elk, and reduce sediment reaching Clear Creek, a tributary of the Middle Fork Clearwater River.

The Clear Creek Draft Project was developed in collaboration with individuals and groups who expressed an interest in the area and its management. Upfront collaboration is expected to build understanding and support for the project.

“The CBC commends the Forests for working with stakeholders to develop a project that is responsive to people and meets the intent of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act. This has not been an easy task. We believe this comprehensive large-scale analysis provides the right mix of management actions that will improve vegetative and aquatic conditions within the area,” shared Alex Irby and Dale Harris, CBC Co-Chairs.

The project is notable because it considers a larger area with more extensive restoration treatments than most Forest analyses. The project is outcome driven, with success being measured by the number of acres restored.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement describes and analyzes three action alternatives that will improve vegetative and aquatic conditions within the drainage. A fourth mandatory “no action” alternative was also analyzed.

The selected Alternative (Alt C) authorizes regeneration harvest on 4156 acres, commercial thin on 4220 acres, 331 acres of improvement harvest, 1371 acres of prescribed burning, 1887 acres of pre-commercial thinning and 41 acres of grassland restoration. Other major activities authorized by the decision include 119.8 miles of system road reconstruction, including the replacement of 77 undersized culverts, construction of 36 miles of temporary road and decommissioning of over 13 miles of road.

Restoration activities will also benefit a variety of non-game and game species, including elk. Acres improved for elk winter range vary from 3809 acres to 4502 acres depending upon the alternative.

Harvest volumes associated with the action alternatives range from 61.8 million board feet to 85.2 million board feet, and are projected to sustain anywhere from 1571 jobs to 2133 jobs.

When implemented, treatments are expected to make the landscape more resilient to fire, insects and disease, and climate change by ensuring there is a balance of vegetative age classes distributed over the landscape, and that the proper species are present. Watershed restoration work will reduce the amount of sediment reaching project area streams.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Final Record of Decision are posted on the Forest’s website at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=38021](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=38021).

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