



Nez Perce N.F. **NEWS RELEASE**



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Nez Perce National Forest
104 Airport Road
Grangeville, Idaho 83530

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 28, 2009

**Contact: Jennifer Stephenson
(208) 983-4049**

The Salmon River Ranger District has initiated preparation of an environmental impact statement (“EIS”) for the Allison-Berg allotment on the Nez Perce National Forest, Salmon River Ranger District, in Idaho County, Idaho, for the purpose of documenting changed conditions on the Allison-Berg allotment relative to the effects on bighorn sheep and their habitat. This EIS will be used to support a determination whether continued grazing by domestic sheep should be allowed or not, and if so, under what conditions. Alternatives that may be considered include: 1) authorization of grazing under conditions identified in the existing ten-year term permit; 2) modification of grazing consistent with the Strategy for Managing Separation between Bighorn Sheep and Domestic Sheep and Goats in the Salmon River Area (SRSS, 2008); 3) grazing with additional mitigation measures to ensure separation of bighorn sheep and domestic sheep; and 4) no grazing.

The Allison-Berg allotment is located approximately 3 miles east of Riggins, Idaho in the Allison, Berg, and Kelly Creek drainages on the north side of the Salmon River. Domestic sheep grazing has occurred in this area for roughly 80 years. Environmental analysis was last completed for this allotment in 1996. This EIS will provide context for decision-making relative to appropriate grazing strategies given current science and projected effects.

Comments regarding the EIS will be accepted for 45 days after legal notification appears in the Lewiston Morning Tribune. The only means of calculating the closing date of the comment period is based on the date of publication. Publication is expected on May 1, 2009.

Please send written comments to Darcy Pederson, Acting District Ranger, Salmon River Ranger District, 304 Slate Creek Road, White Bird, Idaho 83554 (Attention: Allison-Berg Allotment). The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments must be provided during normal business hours via telephone (208) 839-2211 or by facsimile

(208) 839-2730 or in person. Electronic comments should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf) or Word (.doc) to comments-northern-nezperce@fs.fed.us.

Note that comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this EIS. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in subsequent administrative review or judicial review.

Additional information regarding this request can be obtained from Joanne Bonn, Wildlife Biologist, by telephone at (208) 839 - 2211.

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