



# Nez Perce – Clearwater NF Briefing Paper

*Forest Plan Revision  
September 11, 2012*

## FOREST PLAN REVISION - COMMITMENT TO COLLABORATION

In May, 2012, the Forest Service announced that the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests had been selected as an “early adopter” forest with regard to revising their existing Forest Plans. The forests were selected for a number of reasons: recent information available from the 2007 draft revision document; a “need for change” to combine the two previous forest plans into one since the forests are combining, and recent, successful collaborative efforts. In the Spring, 2012 discussions were initiated with the County Commissioners and other potential collaborators interested in being involved with the upcoming revision process. A draft collaborative strategy was circulated at that time for review and comment. This update provides an overview of that Collaborative Forest Planning strategy (strategy) and reflects work the Forests have completed on that strategy since May.

The new rule seeks to deliver stronger protections for forests, water, and wildlife while supporting the economic vitality of our rural communities. In addition, our goal is to be open to local knowledge about these resources as well as using the best science to inform our decisions. Although federal land management decisions remain the responsibility of the forest supervisor, the forest is committed to creating a close working relationship with communities and interested publics who use and care for the forests. The first step in this strategy is to provide orientation meetings, where the public can learn about the process and decide how they might want to participate. The next step for those wanting to participate will be a two and a half day summit, followed by working groups focused on particular places or resources. With the help of professional facilitators, we are designing a flexible plan revision process.

Idaho, Clearwater, and Latah Counties have expressed interest in co-hosting these meetings. These meetings will provide an opportunity for interested parties to hear from the Forest Supervisor regarding his commitment and decision space for plan revision; provide a basic understanding of the planning rule and the revision process, and identify if parties want to be involved in the process at a highly committed level or at a lower informational level. These sessions will be facilitated by University of Idaho staff.

### “Community” or Orientation Meetings

The initial design of this process is to co-host with interested counties, “town” or orientation meetings in five local communities:

1. Orofino (Sept 11): Best Western Motel
2. Grangeville (Sept 13): Senior Citizens Center
3. Moscow (Sept 25): 1912 Center
4. Lolo, MT (Sept 27): Lolo Community Center
5. Lewiston (Oct 4): Red Lion Hotel

### Forest Plan Summit: October 26, 27 & 28<sup>th</sup>: Orofino

The summit is a 2 ½ day workshop to design and initiate the collaborative process. It will be open to both observers (those who could not attend the orientation meetings) and those parties/individuals highly committed to the collaborative revision process for the entire 2 year period. It is currently designed to have three parts:

1. Informational Session
2. Position versus Interest Learning Session

### 3. Common Vision Session

Based on information gathered at the Orientation Sessions, this design could either be modified or completely changed.

#### Resource Working Groups

Working Groups will be established during the summit. They may be either “place-based” or interest-based. Information gathered from the “Summit” will be vital to designing how these groups will function. These groups will likely meet every 2 weeks for about 1 year. They will be designed to create collaborative learning that combines local knowledge with the latest science and to create management recommendations that meet multiple interests and values, even if consensus cannot be reached. This information will be used to inform the decision maker and support the decision.

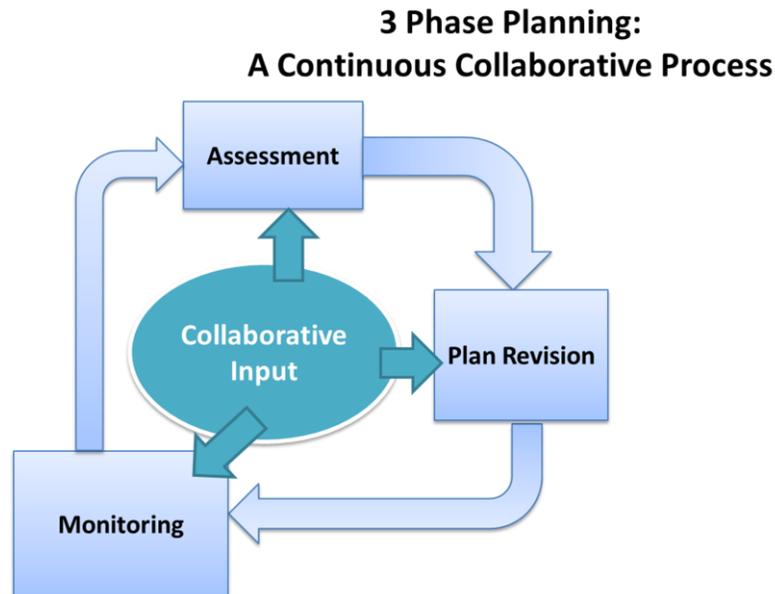
#### Community Check-Ins and Round-up

For those who cannot participate in working groups, the forest will hold several Community Check-In meetings in 2013 followed by one Round-up session near the end of the collaborative effort. The round-up is tentatively scheduled for February, 2014.

#### **COLLABORATIVE PROCESS**

Participants will work with the USFS and consultants to help refine the process for desired outcomes. While the Forest is initiating the process and providing the initial assessment and current condition information, it is different from the traditional linear process where the Forest provides information and then asks for input. Therefore, participants will help find solutions, rather than react to pre-developed proposals. Those participating will be listening and learning from USFS staff, outside experts and one another. The discussions will be facilitated to be respectful of all interests.

The following diagram represents the continuous nature of feedback needed as information is developed and discussed with collaborators.



For more information contact:

Carol A. Hennessey; Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests;  
Collaboration Coordinator: Forest Plan Revision; 903 3rd Street; Kamiah, ID 83536  
Office: 208.935.4270; Cell: 208.451.6273; FAX 208.935.4275; [cahennessey@fs.fed.us](mailto:cahennessey@fs.fed.us)  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nezperce/landmanagement/planning>