NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

AMENDMENT NO. 34

AMENDMENT TO APPENDIX A FOR PRESCRIPTION WATERSHEDS WITHIN THE RED RIVER WATERSHED

The purpose of this amendment is: 1) to allow fuel hazard reduction and watershed improvement activities to be implemented in the Red River watershed concurrently with aquatic improvement activities, as long as an upward trend is indicated; 2) to update Appendix-A Table A-1 based on new information for several prescription watersheds; and 3) to allow a one-time exceedance of Appendix A sediment yield guidelines for some Red Pines watersheds.

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS & AMENDMENTS - WATER QUALITY/FISHERY

Table D-2 summarizes the analysis factors of the proposed fishery/water quality amendments. See also following tables and text for amendment information. The following tables display the watersheds affected, acres per watershed, percent of the project area, and percent of the Nez Perce Forest area for each amendment. Overall the amendments will affect 24 of 26 of the subwatersheds (98% of the project area; 4.54% of the forest).

Table D-1: Summary of Size, Goals, Objective and Outputs by Amendment.

Amendment	Timing	Location & Size	Goals	Objectives	Outputs
First	Until end of project Implementation (est. 2015) & Applies to other projects until the Forest Plan is revised	20 subwatersheds 90,627 acres 88% project area 3.88% Forest Table D-3	No Change	No Change	Allows more vegetation and restoration activities to occur in the short term
Second	Until end of project Implementation (est. 2015) & Applies to other projects until the Forest Plan is revised	5 subwatersheds 14,329 acres 14% project area 0.64% Forest Table D-5	No Change	Updated Table D-4	Applies more restrictive Desired Future Condition (DFC) objectives in Little Moose Creek and Deadwood Creek and establishes DFC guidelines for Lowest Red River.
Third	Until end of project Implementation (est. 2015)	4 subwatersheds 25% project area 25,981 acres 0.01% Forest Table D-6	No Change	No Change	Allows more vegetation activities to occur in the short term. Table D-4
Fourth	Until end of project implementation (est. 2015)	7 subwatersheds 44% project area 45,339 acres 0.02% Forest Table D-7	No Change	No Change	Allows more vegetation and restoration activities to occur in the short term. Table D-4

AMENDMENT – FIRST.

Site-specific – Appendix-A. This amendment allows concurrent fuels reduction activities with aquatic improvement activities, with an upward trend.

PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENT – FISHERY/WATER QUALITY

This amendment proposes to change, the Forest Plan Appendix-A footnote language for **Ditch, Trail, Bridge, Baston**, and **Soda Creeks**, and **Upper Main** and **Main Red River** that reads in part as follows:

> *"* Management-derived sediment which could affect fish habitat will not be allowed until monitoring indicates habitat has recovered to planned levels." (Forest Plan A-7)*

The proposed fuel reduction activities, as well as many of the aquatic improvement activities, will produce sediment in the short-term that could affect fish habitat. Restoration activities, however, are designed to result in an upward trend in watershed condition over time. Therefore, in order to enter into the above named prescription watersheds to reduce hazardous fuels and implement certain aquatic improvement activities, an amendment is needed.

The proposed Forest Plan amendment will replace Appendix-A footnote language for **Ditch, Trail**, **Bridge, Baston, and Soda creeks**, and **Upper Main and Main Red** River to allow concurrent activities. And the amendment will change the Forest Plan Appendix A footnote direction for **Siegel, Deadwood, Red Horse, Dawson, Moose Butte, Otterson, Schooner and Trapper creeks**, **Lower Red River, Lower and Upper South Fork Red River**, and **Middle Fork and West Fork Red River** currently allows management activities concurrent with habitat improvement efforts (Forest Plan A-7); however, these will be amended as well for consistency and clarification in the Red River watershed.

The following text will be added:

> *" 6/ Aquatic conditions in these watersheds have been determined to fall below levels needed to meet fish/water quality objectives. Management activities can occur concurrently with aquatic improvements in these watersheds as long as an upward trend in habitat carrying capacity is indicated. Upward trend is indicated using multiple sources of information including stream surveys, monitoring data, predictive modeling, literature reviews and/or professional judgment. It is not specifically required that an upward trend be demonstrated through monitoring prior to initiation of management activities."*

TIMING

This amendment will be in place until end of Red Pines project implementation (est. 2015) and will apply to other projects until the Forest Plan is revised. The Nez Perce National Forest is in the process of forest plan revision, with completion of the revision process planned for 2007. The temporal scope of the amendment is therefore limited.

LOCATION AND SIZE

The proposed Forest Plan amendment will directly effect 20 identified prescription watersheds. These 20 prescription watersheds encompass approximately 90,000 acres (88% of the project area, 3.88% of the Forest). This applyies to the selected alternative (E modified).

Table D-2: Amendment- First : Watershed information

Alternative	Watershed Name	Watershed (acres)	% of Project Area (acres)	% of Forest
Yes - B,C, D, E	Baston Creek	1,640	2%	0.07%
	Bridge Creek	2,368	2%	0.10%
	Dawson Creek	2,117	2%	0.09%
	Deadwood Creek	3,960	4%	0.17%
	Ditch Creek	2,995	3%	0.13%
	Lower Main Red River	8,951	9%	0.39%
	Lower South Fork Red River	4,840	5%	0.21%
	Main Red River	10,651	10%	0.47%
	Middle Fork Red River	1,894	2%	0.08%
	Moose Butte Creek	7,104	7%	0.31%
	Otterson Creek	2,465	2%	0.11%
	Red Horse Creek	5,834	6%	0.26%
	Schooner Creek	1,614	2%	0.07%
	Siegel Creek	7,792	8%	0.34%
	Soda Creek	3,383	3%	0.15%
	Trail Creek	4,576	4%	0.20%
	Trapper Creek	5,829	6%	0.26%
	Upper Main Red River	3,927	4%	0.17%
	Upper South Fork Red River	4,677	5%	0.21%
	West Fork Red River	4,010	4%	0.18%
	Total	**90,627**	**88%**	**3.88%**

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND OUTPUTS

This proposed amendment will change how Forest Plan objectives are achieved. Footnotes for streams in Appendix-A of the Forest plan, will be revised for prescription watersheds in Table D-3. This Forest Plan Amendment will not change any goals, objectives of the Forest Plan, however it does allow more vegetation and restoration activities to occur in the short term.

The proposed fuel reduction activities, as well as many of the aquatic improvement activities, will produce sediment in the short-term that could affect fish habitat. Restoration activities, however, are designed to result in an upward trend in watershed condition over time. Therefore, in order to enter into the above named prescription watersheds to reduce hazardous fuels and implement certain aquatic improvement activities, an amendment is needed.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

The change in footnotes will apply directly to the identified prescription watersheds only. This amendment will be in place until end of Red Pines project implementation (est. 2015) and will apply to other projects until the Forest Plan is revised. This amendment does not change the desired future conditions within the Red Pines project area.

AMENDMENT – SECOND.

Site specific – Appendix-A, Table A-1. Updates existing stream information and adds previously omitted stream information.

PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENT – FISHERY/WATER QUALITY

This amendment proposes to update some of the information contained in Appendix-A, Table A-1 of the Nez Perce Forest Plan based on new, site-specific information. We propose to change the beneficial use for **Blanco** and **Campbell** Creeks from 'no fishery' to 'anadromous' based on observations of juvenile steelhead trout in these streams in 2002 and 2003. We are not proposing to amend the fishery/water quality objectives, sediment yield guidelines, and entry frequency guidelines, however, because these streams are of relatively low importance to fish. Both are below objective, and we will include footnoted direction regarding upward trend in these streams (see previous discussion).

We propose to change the beneficial use in **Little Moose** and **Deadwood** Creeks from 'resident' to 'anadromous' based on observations on juvenile steelhead trout in Deadwood Creek and juvenile chinook salmon in the lower reaches of Little Moose Creek. A bull trout was also observed in the lower reaches of Little Moose Creek. We are proposing to amend the sediment yield and entry frequency guidelines for both streams because of their relative importance to fish, consistent with other streams of the same importance and same overall channel types.

We propose to assign sediment yield and entry frequency guidelines for **Lowest Red River**, which was not delineated in the original Nez Perce Forest Plan. All changes are summarized below in Table D-4 (**in bold**).

Table D-3: Proposed Changes to Appendix A, Table A-1.

Prescription Watershed	Beneficial Use[1]	Current Fish Habitat Potential % (Forest Plan)	Fishery/Water Quality Objective	Sediment Yield Guideline (% Over Base)	Entry Frequency Guideline
Blanco Creek	**A**	--	70	60	3
Campbell Creek	**A**	--	70	60	3
Deadwood Creek	**A**	40	**80**	**45**	**2**
Little Moose Creek	**A**	70	**80**	**45**	**2**
Lowest Red River	**A**	**--**	**90**	**30**	**1**

[1]Key for Beneficial Use: A = anadromous, R = resident, -- = No Fishery

TIMING

The addition and update of fishery/water quality objectives and sediment yield guidelines will be in place until end of Red Pines project implementation (est. 2015) and will apply to other projects until the Forest Plan is revised. The Nez Perce National Forest is in the process of forest plan revision, with completion of the revision process planned for 2007. The temporal scope of the amendment is therefore limited.

LOCATION AND SIZE

The proposed Forest Plan Amendment will directly effect the five identified prescription watersheds. However, the sediment yield guideline for Lowest Red River is calculated to include all of the upstream contributing watersheds (see Forest Plan Appendix A footnotes). These five prescription watersheds encompass approximately 15,000 acres (14% of the project area; 0.64% of the Forest). This will apply to the selected alternative (E modified).

Table D-4: Amendment - Second: Watershed information.

Alternative	Watershed Name	Watershed (acres)	% of Project Area (acres)	% of Forest
Yes - B, C, D, E	Blanco Creek	1,445	1%	0.06%
	Campbell Creek	1,146	1%	0.05%
	Deadwood Creek	3,961	4%	0.17%
	Little Moose Butte Creek	3,539	3%	0.16%
	Lowest Red River	4,539	4%	0.20%
	Total	**14,629**	**14%**	**0.64%**

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND OUTPUTS

The Forest Plan Amendment will correct information presented in Forest Plan Appendix A to reflect current information.

The sediment yield guideline for Little Moose Creek, Campbell Creek and Lowest Red River were assigned based on the assumption of fish presence. Assessment of these streams since the Forest Plan indicates the streams support chinook salmon, steelhead trout and bull trout. For consistency within Forest Plan Appendix A, the sediment yield guideline will decrease to 30 or 45% and the fishery/water quality objective will increase to 80 or 90%, depending upon the stream.

Sediment yield and entry frequency guidelines will be more restrictive for Little Moose Creek, Deadwood Creek and Lowest Red River. It is uncertain if Forest Plan outputs will be changed because there are no plans for entries beyond what is proposed with this decision. Therefore, it is difficult to say whether the more restrictive entry frequency for these watersheds will be realized in this decade or future decades.

Activities associated with this project were less limited by entry frequency and sediment guidelines than by implementing Forest Plan Amendment 20 (PACFISH).

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

The change in objectives and sediment yield guidelines will apply directly to the identified prescription watersheds. The changes will apply to activities associated with the Red Pines project and any future actions occurring in this area. These changes will remain in effect through the implementation of the Red Pines project. This amendment does not change the desired future conditions within the Red Pines project area.

AMENDMENT – THIRD.

Site specific – Appendix-A. To allow one-time exceedance sediment yield guidelines.

PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENT – FISHERY/WATER QUALITY

This amendment will allow hazardous fuel hazard reduction activities and temporary road construction in watersheds where these activities are predicted to result in peak sediment yields that exceed guidelines listed in Table A-1 of Appendix-A.

Appendix-A includes fishery/water quality objectives and sediment yield and entry frequency guidelines that provide management direction in terms of the maximum estimated increase in sediment over baseline conditions that can be approached or equaled for a specified number of years per decade. These guidelines are intended to limit peak sediment yields such that the fishery/water quality objectives can be met, especially when combined with restoration activities in "below-objective" watersheds. Sediment yield guidelines vary based on channel type, beneficial use, species present, and overall value of the watershed to fishery resources, with the most conservative guidelines applied to high-value watersheds such as Red River.

We are proposing to allow a one-time exceedance of these values for Alternatives B and C in the following watersheds: **Ditch Creek, Main Red River, Lower Red River, and Soda Creek.** For Alternatives D and E, we are proposing a one-time exceedance for **Lower Red River**. Both Lower Red River and Moose Butte Creek exceed the sediment yield guidelines in Appendix A, in their existing condition (Alternative A). Since we are not proposing any entries into Moose Butte Creek under any alternative, it is not included in this amendment.

TIMING

The change in sediment yield guidelines will be in effect for the duration of the Red Pines project implementation (est. 10 years). The temporal scope of the amendment is therefore limited.

LOCATION AND SIZE

The proposed Forest Plan Amendment will directly effect the four identified prescription watersheds, depending upon alternative (Table D-6). However, the allowed one-time exceedance of the sediment yield guidelines and increase in entry frequency, in watersheds, currently "below objective". The Lowest Red River amendment will include all of the upstream contributing watersheds (see Forest Plan Appendix A footnotes). These four prescription watersheds encompass approximately 26,000 acres (25% of the project area, 0.01% of the Forest).

Table D-5: Amendment - Third : Watershed information.

Alternative	Watershed Name	Watershed (acres)	% of Project Area (acres)	% of Forest
Yes - B, C	Ditch Creek	2,995	3%	0.13%
Yes - B, C, D, E	Lower Main Red River [1]	8,951	9%	0.39%
Yes - B, C	Main Red River	10,651	10%	0.47%
Yes - B, C	Soda Creek	3,383	3%	0.15%
	Total	**25,981**	**25%**	**0.01%**

1 Exceeds Forest Plan, sediment yield guidelines under existing conditions (Alternative A).

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND OUTPUTS

This Forest Plan Amendment will not change any goals, objectives of the Forest Plan, however it does allow more vegetation activities to occur in the short term.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

One-time allowed exceedance changes in sediment yield guidelines will apply directly to the identified prescription watersheds. The changes will apply to activities associated with the Red Pines project. These changes will remain in effect for the duration of the Red Pines project implementation. This amendment does not change the desired future conditions within the Red Pines project area.