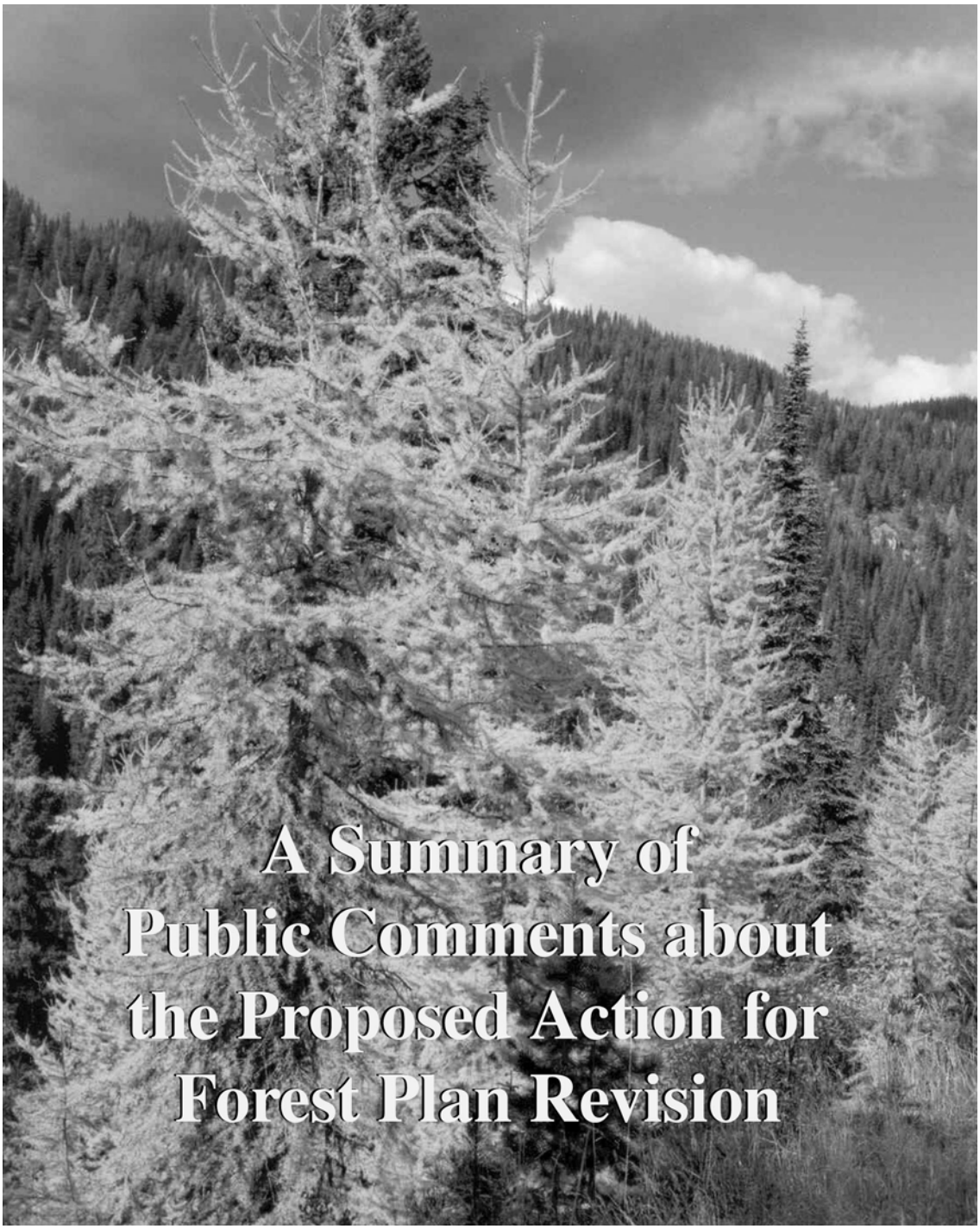
Content Analysis Report



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Chapter 1 – Tribal Concerns

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Decision-making Processes

Decision-making Processes and Methods

I-1. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should clearly define the forests' decision space.

In the various work groups, it is not always evident whether actions considered or changes from the existing plan are based on policy from the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), regional or national direction, or from the forest planning team. It is not always obvious whether the local work group or policies outside of the forests' staffs will affect the decisions made. It would be very beneficial to describe the decision space the planning team is working within. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

I-2. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should facilitate work group discussions regarding water quality issues.

Perhaps one of the work groups supporting the forest planning process working with water quality issues could meet with the other work groups to have a discussion about where water quality limited stream segments exist, what activities on the forest are causing the water quality concerns, and what needs to be done to start implementing TMDLs and other restoration plans. Timber harvest must be severely curtailed or excluded from areas where water quality and fisheries habitat is limited. The work groups and the forests should develop a strategy to speed restoration of water quality and suggest where timber harvest displaced from water quality limited environments could occur and the potential scope of that opportunity. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Role/Authority

I-3. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should allow work groups to shape decisions.

The forests, rather than reaching out to the Tribe, sister federal agencies and the state, have chosen a path where the planning staff and forest leadership make the decisions regarding plan direction, allowing the work group only to react to the decisions rather than help shape the decisions. We believe helping to form the decisions, framing the management plan, would be more productive and would result in fewer questions and more consensus among the work group and core planning participants. We suggest the forest planning team submit more tasks to the work groups for review and recommendation rather than make the decisions themselves and then seek input. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

I-4. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recognize the Nez Perce Tribes as co-managers of the forests.

Much has changed since the initial forest plans for the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests were adopted in the 1980s. The Tribe has dramatically increased its presence and co-management of its trust resources on the national forest. The range of co-management between the Nez Perce Tribe and the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests is expansive, innovative and a national model. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID– 3867)

Of paramount concern to the Nez Perce Tribe is the recognition of co-management with the Forest Service. Since adoption of the initial forest plans in the 1980s, the Tribe has greatly

expanded its management of treaty-reserved resources, and their habitats on the national forests. Tribal members work directly on restoration of wildlife, fisheries, and habitat on the two forests. The level of tribal investment on or near national forest lands exceeds $5 million annually. Moreover, tribal members benefit from tribal co-management of the national forests by routinely exercising their rights to hunt, fish, camp, graze, and gather. We sincerely believe that a dedication by the forests to work closely with the Tribe to address the issues identified above will result in better forest plans and a better work relationship in the future. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Coordination/Consultation with Tribes

I-5. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should continue to work with tribal employees and leadership.

WORKING GROUPS

The Tribe appreciates the forests' diligent efforts to coordinate and consult with the Tribe during the beginning stages of the revision process. In December of 2003, the forest plan revision team made presentations to the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, and also met with tribal employees to solicit input from the Tribe. The forest plan revision team has met with tribal representatives over the past year to identify and discuss tribal issues of concern and how the revision process can set the stage for addressing, if not resolving those issues. The revision team has invited tribal staff to be included in a set of resource-specific workgroups, e.g., aquatics workgroup. Although these workgroups have had mixed success at communicating and addressing tribal issues of concern, in general the Tribe appreciates the opportunity to participate at this professional and technical level. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

WOLF RECOVERY

The Tribe has been leading the field efforts for the recovery of the grey wolf within the two forests since the inception of the recovery effort ten years ago. The cooperation and coordination of concerns as well as the support of the staff of both forests during this recovery effort has been very high and much appreciated. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Public Involvement

I-6. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should communicate and collaborate with forest users.

FIRE

We recommend this forest planning cycle contain an educational initiative to portray fire as a natural part of the landscape that can't be suppressed indefinitely without consequences. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

WEED-FREE FORAGE

The Tribe believes the forest should work with local weed control groups and agencies to obtain and sell weed free hay to people accessing the back country with horses to assure hay used is weed free. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Use of Science

I-7. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should use information included in tribal plans.

The Nez Perce Tribe is a signatory to *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit: Spirit of the Salmon*, the Columbia River Anadromous Fish Restoration Plan of the Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs and Yakima Tribes. The Nez Perce Tribe also was the lead entity who developed the draft Clearwater subbasin plan as part of the fish and wildlife program of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. The Tribe expects the Forest Service to carry out the duties of the Forest Service Manual to become familiar with these two plans that the Tribe has co-authored and to resolve any inconsistencies between the tribal plans and revised forest plans. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Agency Organization and Funding

I-8. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should explore funding options for tribal involvement.

The Tribe does not have sufficient funding available to develop written and/or visual input for each group meeting, attend the group meetings, analyze the concerns developed in the meeting, address communications between meetings, and collaborate with participants in the planning process outside of the meeting setting in preparation for the next meeting. We would appreciate your assistance in exploring funding that may be available or ways to amend the process to address the reality of limited resources. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Revision Documents

I-9. The Clearwater and Nez Perce planning team should consider findings from the social assessment throughout forest plan revision.

The Tribe encourages the Forests to closely examine the findings in the social assessment and to keep these diverse concerns at the forefront of decision making throughout the forest plan revision process. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Documents

Revision Topics

I-10. The Clearwater and Nez Perce planning team has correctly identified watersheds and aquatic ecosystem management as a revision topic.

The Tribe is encouraged that the forests have identified watersheds and aquatic ecosystem management as a primary management revision topic in the forest plans. We are specifically encouraged by the forests' recognition of the need to strengthen forest plan direction to conserve and restore aquatic resources. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

I-11. The Clearwater and Nez Perce planning teams should add tribal uses and co-management as a revision topic.

Primary Management Revision Topics: Tribal Use and Co-management. The forests have identified five primary management revision topics: (1) access management; (2) watersheds and aquatic ecosystems; (3) terrestrial ecosystems; (4) noxious weeds; and (5) special designations and areas. The Tribe agrees that these five topics should be at the forefront of revising management strategies in the forest plans. In addition, the Tribe would like the forests to add tribal use and co-management as a sixth primary management revision topic, a topic that deals with the forests' relationship and management of treaty-reserved resources with the Nez Perce Tribe. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

ALTERNATIVES TO CO-MANAGEMENT

The Tribe is unsatisfied that the forests have fulfilled their trust responsibilities unless this overriding issue of co-management with the Nez Perce Tribe is clearly identified, disclosed and analyzed as a key revision topic in the forest plans. Alternative to co-management: If the forests have difficulty in analyzing tribal co-management as a key revision topic in the forest plans, we believe the Forest Service also currently has several tools available to carry out its fiduciary responsibilities to the Nez Perce Tribe. These tools include analyzing a tribal alternative during the revision process, prescribing a management standard akin to the stewardship concept with the watershed approach for restoration, examining the charter forest concept of turning management over to the Tribe, or identifying the need of transferring the national forest lands back to the Nez Perce Tribe. At a minimum, the forests should begin to analyze a tribal alternative in the forest plan revisions. The tribal alternative should include the practical applications of co-management discussed above, as well as the remaining comments throughout this letter for how to address each of the Tribe's issues of concern with respect to the five primary management revision topics. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Plan Adequacy

I-12. The Clearwater and Nez Perce planning team should create a plan that protects treaty-reserved resources.

Of key concern to the Tribe is how these various workgroup efforts and conclusions will be integrated into an overall management plan for the forests, and whether such an integration process is capable of addressing all of the Tribe's issues of concern. The integration that occurred for the existing forest plans resulted in forest plans that promised everything to everyone, but on most accounts, fell well short on delivering those promises. Integration of the various resource issues in the new forest plans will necessitate an allocation of management strategies that operate within the confines of existing environmental laws and policies, as well as within the practical budget constraints, local economics, and various social values. Historically, those choices have not adequately protected the interests and treaty-reserved resources of the Nez Perce Tribe. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

ESTABLISH AQUATIC CONSERVATION AREAS

The Notice of Intent indicates that the forests will establish aquatic conservation areas and associated direction, with priorities being assigned to areas with the highest potential for improvement. The Tribe thinks this is a good idea, but also encourages the forests to not "write off" any degraded watersheds as incapable of restoration. To that end, the forest plans should establish aquatic restoration areas, where vegetation and other resource management

will not further degrade or impair future restoration opportunities. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

BE CONSISTENT WITH SUBBASIN PLANS

New plans should fully consider and incorporate the recommendations and measures called for in the Clearwater and Salmon subbasin plans developed by the Tribe and state for the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council (NWPPC). The Nez Perce Tribe recommends that the forests use the Clearwater subbasin plan as a base for the habitat management direction for the fish and wildlife sections of the forest plan. This plan needs to be used more than a reference document and should be a guide for the habitat needs to support the goals of the fish and wildlife population managers (the Tribe and the State). (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

REDUCE SEDIMENT

It is the Tribe's expectation that any management occurring in tributaries to the South Fork must reduce sediment in order to comply with the TMDL (total maximum daily load of sediment). The new forest plans should incorporate such a strategy as a mandatory management standard. The South Fork TMDL (total maximum daily load of sediment) also addresses water temperature. For example, Red River is in violation of the state of Idaho temperature standards, and a temperature TMDL has been written for this watershed. Specific temperature reduction targets and surrogate shade targets have been established by the TMDL. These targets have been set for as much as an 80% canopy increase in areas of the watershed. Therefore, management direction in the new forest plans needs to attain riparian management objectives (RMOs) in riparian areas. The need for the forests to clearly identify TMDL compliance strategies through guidelines and standards in the new forest plans is especially persuasive with respect to the TMDL for the South Fork Clearwater River because of the downstream impacts to water quality on the Nez Perce Reservation. The South Fork Clearwater River regularly "blows out," producing vast amounts of sediment that are felt downstream to the mainstem Clearwater River – harming water quality and fish habitat across the Nez Perce Reservation – and all the way downstream to the confluence of the Clearwater River and the Snake River in Lewiston. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Plan Analysis/Data/Modeling

I-13. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should adjust the Elk Habitat Effectiveness Model.

The Tribe believes, although we have not validated, the Forest Service has adhered to the EHE (elk habitat effectiveness model) terms delineated in the current forest management plans. If the habitat was managed as we had all agreed, why have the populations declined? Idaho Department of Fish & Game elk population data indicates the population decline in the Clearwater has been most severe and lasted the longest in the roadless and wilderness portions of these two national forests. The tribe concludes the roadless areas and the wilderness habitats are probably not at 100% of effectiveness for elk as was assumed in 1987. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Cumulative Effects

I-14. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop methods to analyze and monitor cumulative effects in forest watersheds.

The current forest plans provide decision makers with few management directives or tools to analyze and monitor cumulative effects to watersheds and aquatic ecosystems. The Tribe urges the forests to develop management direction and tools to decision makers in the new forest plans that provide for meaningful analysis, management, and monitoring of cumulative effects to entire watersheds. At a minimum, the management direction should require a thorough analysis of past, present, ongoing, and future private, state, and federal actions, and use that analysis as a basis for protecting or restoring watersheds at the system-wide geographic areas described above. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Monitoring and Inventory

I-15. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop an effective inventory and monitoring strategy.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The Tribe urges the forest to analyze and prescribe an aggressive monitoring regime to ground truth project design, modeled results, and effectiveness of best management practices (BMPs), and mitigation measures. Overall, there has been a lack of a consistent and strong commitment to monitoring by the forests. For example, monitoring of fish habitat on the Nez Perce National Forest is virtually non-existent, and monitoring on the Clearwater National Forest has been reduced in scope and intensity. In the new forest plans, the Tribe urges the forests to display a commitment to change this gap in management by requiring an aggressive monitoring regime that provides factual feedback for adaptive management. A strong monitoring program should be characterized by early warning parameters and protocols that are linked to quantitative, numeric standards for water quality and fisheries. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

RIPARIAN AREAS

The forest plans should set out management requirements to conduct a riparian inventory to determine the effectiveness of PACFISH buffers and to increase them where those conditions state. In addition to establishing riparian buffers, the forest plans should prescribe protective riparian management objectives (RMOs) that err on the side of riparian protection and “do no harm” to water quality and aquatic resources. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Desired Conditions

I-16. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop measures to address the rate of change toward the desired future condition.

The forests have decided to develop geographic areas and prescribe styles of management for each geographic area, to achieve a desired future condition of vegetation structure and composition. In doing so, the plan implies there is a “rate of change” from the current condition each year as we move toward the desired future condition – which is assumed to be the goal reached at the end of this new planning cycle 12 to 15 years in the future. The forests appear to have decided not to have targets for most resource outputs that were included in the last plan. We believe the “rate of change” implies there is progress toward a

well-defined goal from a well, defined beginning. This leads us to conclude that the forests must include some units of measure or targets for resources other than simply timber harvest. These may not take the same form as the standards in the last plan, but there needs to be some measures to assess progress toward the desired future outcome. We expect the new forest plan to address the concept that there is a "rate of change" as we move toward the desired future condition that can be well documented. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID –3867)

I-17. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests have proposed appropriate goals for national forest lands.

The Tribe shares your vision "to maintain healthy, resilient landscapes and watersheds that provide diverse recreation opportunities and a sustainable flow of forest products and amenities." *Id.* (emphasis added). Such a vision for the future requires a tremendous commitment by forest supervisors, district rangers, and other decision makers to integrate vegetation management in a sustainable manner, i.e., in a manner that does not impair or retard the attainment of tribal members' ability to exercise treaty rights to hunt, fish, gather, camp, and graze on the national forest. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

I-18. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recognize the need to protect treaty-reserved resources.

Historically, decision makers have not adequately protected the interests and treaty-reserved resources of the Nez Perce Tribe to achieve this overarching desired future condition. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Goals

I-19. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should integrate resource management goals.

There is a great need for the new forest plans to integrate the various resource management goals, e.g., vegetation management, in a manner that achieves watershed conservation and restoration while also meeting Forest Service commitments under the Endangered Species Act, as well as fulfilling its trust responsibility to the Nez Perce Tribe to protect, restore, and enhance treaty reserved resources and their habitats. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Standards and Guidelines

I-20. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop a plan with numeric standards to ensure accountability.

The Notice of Intent indicates that the new forest plans will have an emphasis on desired future conditions, with fewer standards and guidelines. The Tribe disagrees with this approach. Numeric standards are a necessary mechanism for public and tribal accountability to ensure that the desired future conditions for water quality and fisheries are being met, and that the Forest Service is living up to its trust responsibility to protect, restore, and enhance treaty reserved resources and their habitats. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Numeric standards and guidelines are a necessary means for tribal and public accountability to ensure that the forests achieve this vision. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

EQUIVALENT CLEARCUT AREA

The current forest plans provide management standards for evaluating water flows. These are numeric thresholds entitled equivalent clearcut area, or ECA. ECA is a measurement of the logging and road building that has occurred in a subwatershed. The current forest plans state that for any subwatershed, not more than 15% ECA may be exceeded. The Tribe urges the forest to reevaluate this standard, and to analyze a more restrictive standard to ensure protection of water quality from high peak flows and excess sediment yield. The ECA level of 15% likely does not represent a standard that would allow recovery of watershed health where sediment levels exceed current forest plan standards for sediment. Another reason to evaluate the ECA standard of 15% is its effects and correlation with the timing of the spring and summer runoff. As ECA increases, snowmelt occurs earlier in the spring and produces higher peak flows, thus reserving a smaller snowmelt of cold water in the later summer months. The cold water that is being lost through increased ECA, from logging and road building , has had a detrimental effect on salmonids and other aquatic life that depend on cold clean water in the summer months. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

PACFISH

The Tribe is encouraged by the forests' commitment to carry forward many of the same strategies identified in PACFISH. However, the Tribe is somewhat concerned with the statement in the Notice of Intent that states there will be minor modifications to PACFISH. The Tribe needs to know what the minor modifications are. We remain concerned that the minor modifications to PACFISH will result in more discretion for risky vegetation management, and less protection for water quality and aquatic resources. Closely examine the width of riparian conservation areas (RCAs, also known as buffers), particularly in areas where buffers have been compromised. For example, many riparian buffers on the two forests have been compromised by streamside roads or previous logging units that are adjacent to riparian areas. PACFISH did not adequately account for such disturbances, nor did PACFISH account for the highly unstable granitic soils that occur on steep slopes and in landslide prone area. In sensitive areas, the Tribe urges the forests to require a greater level of protection (wider buffers) beyond that prescribed by PACFISH. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

ROADS

Research continues to affirm traffic on roads, even bicycles can affect elk use of the surrounding habitat. The traffic patterns on the road can effectively make the surrounding habitat unfit for elk use. Road management will continue to be a critical factor to prescribe for elk habitat management on the roaded front within the forest. The plan should have standards for the miles of open roads per square mile of land. A new framework and vision for managing elk habitat in the basin is required. We recommend updating the current model for use in the next forest management plan. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

STEWARDSHIP

By prescribing a forest-wide management standard akin to the stewardship concept with the watershed approach for restoration, the forests can accomplish their vision of integrated resource management. The stewardship concept can ensure that vegetation management proceeds only in a manner that accomplishes an upward trend in watershed health. Such an approach goes a long way toward protecting treaty reserved resources, while also accomplishing other resource management needs on the forests. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS

The Tribe is encouraged that the forests recognize the need to integrate forest management direction with water quality and implementation of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) under the Clean Water Act. Integration should set forward specific standards in the new forest plans. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

UPWARD TREND VERSUS NO MEASURABLE INCREASE

Current forest plans prescribe two management alternatives scenarios for when these numeric standards are not being met. In the current Nez Perce National Forest Plan, decision-makers are required to show that where forest plan standards for water quality or fisheries are not currently being met, a project must show an "upward trend." In the current Clearwater National Forest Plan, decision makers are required to show that where forest plan standards for sediment are not currently being met, a project must produce "no measurable increase" in sediment. Through the revision process, the forests should take a hard look at the advantages and implications of both of these management alternatives. While both of these forest plan standards appear to mitigate impacts to watershed health, in practice they lack definition and their application has not been monitored for effectiveness. That being said, given the two options, the Tribe prefers the upward trend requirement with a robust definition that requires site-specific pre- and post-project monitoring to ground truth old and existing data, as well as modeled results. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

WATER QUALITY

The Tribe strongly supports the use of numeric standards for water quality, fisheries, and desired future conditions that are utilized in the current forest plans. During the initial forest planning efforts in the 1980s, the Nez Perce Tribe and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission worked hard to get these standards into the forest plans (Appendix A and Appendix K). (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Uses and Activities

I-21. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should modify the uses and activities table.

The Tribe would like the forests to add the following uses and activities to this analysis: (1) watershed restoration; (2) road building (both temporary and permanent); (3) fish and wildlife conservation; and (4) fuels reduction and other vegetation management. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Geographic Areas

I-22. The Clearwater and Nez Perce planning team has appropriately adopted the concept of geographic areas.

The Tribe commends the forests for adopting a new strategy for defining geographic areas as "a sense of place," rather than the arbitrary and prescriptive management areas that exist in the current forest plans. The Tribe agrees that the current regime created great challenges for integrating management of vegetation, aquatic resources, wildlife, recreation, and other resources. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

I-23. The Clearwater and Nez Perce planning team should adjust geographic area boundaries.

The forests state that changing from management areas to geographic areas will facilitate an integrated approach to resource management. However, as currently defined in the proposed action, watersheds across the forests are carved up into 27 geographic areas. The Nez Perce Tribe views management in a ridge-top to ridge-top basis, which encompasses the cumulative effects to entire watersheds. Therefore, we encourage the forests to redraw the proposed geographic areas at a larger, system-wide scale that would parallel entire watersheds, rather than parcel them into 27 geographic areas. Given that the forests have identified watersheds and aquatic ecosystem management as a primary management revision topic, designing "system-wide" geographic areas, roughly parallel to the 4th field hydrological unit code (HUC), makes the most sense for integrating resource management. Effective integrated resource management requires that these watersheds be managed for what they are, integrated aquatic ecosystems. Moreover, combining the proposed geographic areas into "system-wide" geographic areas provides the forests with a better way to manage, protect, and monitor watersheds and aquatic ecosystems. Specifically, the Tribe encourages the forests to redefine the proposed boundaries of the 27 geographic areas into the following system-wide geographic areas: (1) Lochsa River; (2) Selway River; (3) Middle Fork Clearwater River; (4) South Fork Clearwater River; (5) North Fork Clearwater River; (6) Potlatch River; (7) Palouse River; and (8) Lower Salmon River. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

I-24. The Clearwater and Nez Perce planning team should recognize additional unique features in the geographic areas.

The Tribe also understands that for each geographic area, the forests intend to identify unique features. The revised forest plans will prescribe specific management for the unique features, separate from the forest-wide management direction. The Tribe would like to see specific management direction for the following unique features: (1) all wilderness areas; (2) all wild and scenic rivers; (3) all inventoried roadless areas; (4) the Nee Mee Poo Trail; (5) Musselshell Meadows; (6) McComas Meadows: (7) Pilot Knob; (8) Red River Hot Springs; (9) Elk City; (10) the Lochsa River corridor; (11) the Selway River corridor; (12) checkerboarded lands surrounding the Plum Creek Timber Company lands; (13) satellite facilities associated with the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery at Newsome Creek and Yoosa Creek; (14) the Southern Nez Perce Trail; and (15) Smoking Place. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Natural Resources Management

I-25. The Clearwater-Nez Perce revision team should evaluate the impacts of management actions on tribal treaty-reserved rights.

The Forests should analyze and evaluate impacts of Forest Service management actions to access for tribal members exercising treaty-reserved rights. This includes the impacts of land exchanges, timber sales, road obliteration, and other actions that may limit access to tribal members. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

The protection, restoration, and enhancement of the trust resources of the Nez Perce Tribe, and the habitats upon which they depend, are greatly impacted by the land management activities of the Forest Service. (Tribal Government/Elected Official/Agency, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Physical Elements

Watershed Restoration

I-26. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should protect and restore watersheds.

Management direction in the forest plans should focus on protecting properly functioning watersheds and a strategy of aggressively restoring non-properly functioning and degraded watersheds. Such an approach is consistent with tribal co-management of habitat improvements and watershed protection on the forests, as well as the Clearwater subbasin plan. Forest Service management strategies should aggressively compliment and enhance the salmon recovery efforts and watershed restoration investments undertaken by the Nez Perce Tribe in partnership with the Forest Service. Since 1997, the Tribe's contribution in this effort has exceeded $15 million; the forests need to protect these investments. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

I-27. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should emphasize restoration for the South Fork Clearwater River.

The legacy effects from past and present logging and road building – increasing water temperature and sediment in the South Fork Clearwater River – go well beyond the natural range of variability that a water body of this size would typically exhibit. This watershed has had too much logging and too many roads; it desperately needs to be cleaned up and restored. Therefore, the Tribe urges the forests to use the forest plan revision process as a vehicle for setting long term management direction to comply with and implement the TMDL (total maximum daily load of sediment), and restore this watershed for future generations. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Biological Elements

Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species

I-28. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should contribute to the recovery of threatened, endangered and sensitive species.

Since the first forest plans were approved, several species of fish and wildlife and plants have been listed under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act within the Clearwater Basin. The new forest plans need to specify how they will identify critical habitat and protect it in support of the recovery efforts. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

ANADROMOUS FISH

The exercise of the Tribe's treaty-reserved fishing rights is presently limited by the need to rebuild anadromous fish populations. Although there are many causes for this population decline, removal of vegetation, soil degradation, and alteration of watershed hydrology caused by logging, mining, road construction, water withdrawals, and grazing on the national forests have contributed to the decline in salmon survival in freshwater habitats. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867

PLANTS

We trust the forests will protect known populations of plants federally protected. We would like to see the plan include efforts to systematically search for and identify other populations of protected plants. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Management Indicator Species

I-29. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should explain why it is proposing to revise management indicator species.

The forests are proposing to update management indicator species (MIS) to more accurately reflect the effects of management, under the rationale that the current MIS are inadequate to show management effects. The Tribe questions this rationale because both forests have done little or no monitoring of wildlife MIS. Before updating the MIS list, the forests should explain with data the basis for rejecting the current list of MIS. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Vegetation Management

I-30. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should increase the amount of early seral vegetation available for elk forage.

There is less early seral stages of succession present now than historically. It is the early seral stages elk key in on for spring and summer forage where they gain the condition they need. We believe the reduction of acreage in early seral stage vegetation is related to extensive efforts to suppress fires. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF ELK COLLABORATIVE

The key recommendation of this report (elk collaborative) is to burn, on average, about 2% of the area (roughly 50,000 acres) within Idaho Fish & Game Department game management units 10, 12, 17, and 19 each year for the next 12 to 15 years. The Tribe encourages the Forest Service to embrace this goal and to maintain a dialog with the members of the collaborative. The Tribe understands this is an aggressive goal the forests may have trouble meeting as a cumulative number of acres even over a 12 or 15 year period. Therefore, the Nez Perce Tribe has agreed some of the acreage goal can be achieved through mechanical means or timber through manipulating an average of 2% of the roaded areas in units 10 and 12 each year for the next 12 or 15 years. While this is an ambitious goal recent experience indicates it can be achieved. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Noxious Weed Management

I-31. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recognize the impact of noxious weeds on elk.

The Tribe is concerned about the present and future impacts of noxious weeds. The low elevation, drier slopes within the Lochsa, Selway, and South Fork of the Clearwater Rivers are the areas under greatest threat to become occupied by noxious weeds. It is the grasses and forbs found on these sites and at higher elevations that provide sufficient nutrition for the elk herds to regain condition lost through the winter. There is literature, documenting elk eating spotted knapweed and additional research documenting elk avoiding it if neighboring foraging areas have no knapweed. To the extent noxious weeds interfere with elk obtaining

their nutritional needs, weeds are diminishing the forests' ability to support elk herds in the desired quantities. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Active Treatment for Noxious Weeds

I-32. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should emphasize control of noxious weeds.

The forests need a strong and multifaceted noxious weed control effort following ground-disturbing activities, which aggravate noxious weed concerns. Noxious weed control measures need to be fully funded and be part of the National Environmental Policy Act review for any ground-disturbing activity and need to be fully considered in the planning process. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Fire and Fuels Management

I-33. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should evaluate the impacts and benefits of fire in roadless and wilderness.

The Tribe requests that the forests evaluate the impacts and benefits, of using prescribed burns and naturally-ignited fires in the roadless and wilderness areas respectively, to achieve the burning goal developed by the elk collaborative (group). Further the forests should evaluate if they will need to use prescribed ignitions within the wilderness areas to achieve the goal or if they believe it can be achieved with naturally ignited fires in the wilderness. We expect the Forest Service analysis to determine if the goal can be achieved without causing impacts violating the Clean Water or Clean Air Acts or the Endangered Species Act. If the forests determine, in their analysis, achieving the burning goal will cause impacts they believe would cause them to violate federal law or adversely impact other resources, the Tribe expects the analysis to determine how many acres of burning, spread over the area described in the elk collaborative burning goal. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Role of Fire in Ecosystems

I-34. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should restore fire to the landscape.

The Tribe believes that the research, the reduction of elk harvest, the population data, and the increased removal of predators with no response from elk herds, all suggest the problem, at least in the roadless and wilderness portions of the forests, is habitat driven. We conclude, there needs to be more fire restored to the landscape to manage the habitat in the roadless and wilderness areas. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Domestic Livestock Management

Grazing Management

I-35. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should reduce and eliminate grazing in specific areas of the forests.

Through the revision process the Tribe encourages the forests to reduce grazing impacts in the Palouse River, Potlatch River, and the Elk Creek (geographic areas). Additionally, the

Tribe urges the forests to eliminate livestock grazing in the anadromous tributaries to Lolo Creek, Lochsa River, Salmon River, and in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness area. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Other Activities Management

Permitting

I-36. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should protect tribal members' abilities to collect roots and berries.

Many of the treaty-reserved natural resources . . . which the Nez Perce Tribe depends upon are currently imperiled, not due to any fault of the Tribe's. For example, through commercialized harvest of roots and berries, the forests have permitted non-Indians to impact tribal members' ability to conduct traditional harvest of these currently depleted culturally significant resources. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Transportation Management

Transportation System Management

I-37. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should address the dispersal of weed seeds via the forest road system.

The Nez Perce Tribe recommends the forests consider immediate measures constricting the vectors dispersing the weed seeds. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Road/Trail Structures

I-38. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider establishing wash stations in key locations.

The forests, in the planning process, should consider establishing wash stations for all traffic leaving Grangeville, Kamiah or Kooskia and Powell that would quickly and efficiently remove the weed seeds from the vehicles that use Highway 12. Just as all logging machinery is washed now before it returns to the woods. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Recreation Management

Motorized Recreation

ATVs/OHVs

I-39. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should analyze the impacts of motorized recreation on fish and wildlife.

The Tribe further recommends that the forests analyze and evaluate the impacts of motorized recreation (all-terrain vehicles) on fish and wildlife resources and habitat and take appropriate action to limit such use in sensitive areas. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Lands and Special Designations

Special Lands Designations

Culturally-Significant Areas

I-40. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should protect the Pilot Knob area.

Pilot Knob is a very important cultural and sacred site to the Nez Perce Tribe. From the Tribe's perspective, the best management of this area would consist of removing existing development and restricting access for non-tribal members. We feel that management of Pilot Knob should be included within the forest plan revision currently being undertaken by the forest. The best method for this to occur would be within some sort of subgroup assigned to this specific task. Cultural resource personnel from both the Tribe and the forest along with forest plan revision team leader would be the best participants for such a subgroup. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 58)

TRIBAL MANAGEMENT OR OWNERSHIP

The Tribe believes that the planning process provides opportunities to provide additional protections to tribal sacred sites, including Pilot Knob. We believe that the forests should explore using the planning process to provide an extremely high level of protection to the site, including recognizing the site as a traditional cultural property (TCP), restricting non-tribal motorized access, and removing the area from any type of management action. Further, we recommend that discussions occur to include this property in any proposed current or future land exchange/transfer legislation to allow either tribal or Bureau of Indian Affairs ownership/management of the property. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Wilderness (Proposed, Recommended, Study)

I-41. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recommend areas for wilderness recommendation.

GREAT BURN AREA

Specific recommendations for wilderness include the Great Burn Area. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

MALLARD-LARKINS

Specific recommendations for wilderness include the Mallard-Larkins Area. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Roadless Areas

I-42. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should protect roadless areas.

The Tribe has taken the policy position that roadless should remain roadless, free of logging, grazing, and road building. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Wild and Scenic Rivers

I-43. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recommend streams for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Tribe encourages the forests to make additional recommendations for inclusion of rivers into the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Tribe strongly endorses the following obvious candidates for wild and scenic status; the North Fork of the Clearwater River, the Little North Fork, Kelly Creek, Cayuse Creek, Cold Killed Creek, Fish Creek, Hungery Creeks, Meadow Creek, Bargamin Creek, Running Creek, White Bird Creek, segments of the Salmon River, Johns Creek, Lake Creek, Slate Creek, Bargamin Creek, Bear Creek, Moose Creek, and the Three Links complexes. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Social and Economic Values

I-44. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the economic benefits of water quality and fisheries.

The Tribe urges the forests to consider the economic benefits of a healthy fishery and good water quality on an equal basis with the economics of timber, grazing, mining, and other extractive natural resource management. For example, several economic studies have documented that recreational fisheries bring in a tremendous amount of money to the citizens and communities adjacent to the national forest. Protecting and restoring water quality and fish habitat also provides high wage earning jobs to local residents, both tribal members and non-Indian contractors. Similarly, hunting, lodging, and rafting bring a great deal of direct, indirect, and recycled revenues to local communities. The high value of the headwaters on national forests provides the primary source of drinking water for several communities. In total, the economic benefits of clean water, and healthy, harvestable levels of fish and wildlife is likely to outweigh the economic benefits of traditional natural resource industries, such as logging, mining, and grazing. The Forests should take a hard look and give equal consideration to the economics of recreation and water quality throughout the forest plan revision process. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Chapter 2 – Decision-making Processes

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Decision-making Processes

Decision-making Processes and Methods

II-1. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should create direction that provides flexibility.

. . . develop programmatic guidance that allows local decision makers the flexibility to utilize all current and future technologies in considering resource management activities. The forest plan should create a tone/atmosphere that leads to actions, not one that binds the evaluation process in never-ending analysis. (Place-based Group, OROFINO, ID – 3282)

II-2. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should complete forest plan revision in a timely manner.

The time and taxpayers' money that has already been invested in this one plan is mind-boggling. I encourage you to "step on it" and speed this process up. . . It's discouraging to folks in the "real world" to see so much time and money go into these plans when there are so many, many other vitally important areas you need to be putting your time into – especially time on the ground restoring our forests back to health. (Individual, ELK CITY, ID – 4905)

II-3. Public Concern: The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should clearly define the decision space.

. . . it not always evident whether actions considered or changes from the existing plan are based on policy from the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), regional or national direction, or from the forest planning team. It is not always obvious whether the local work group or polices outside of the forests' staff will affect the decisions made. It would be very beneficial to describe the decision space the planning team is working within. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Role/Authority

II-4. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop direction that is tiered to regional and national plans.

Forest resources should be managed to meet the national needs first and local needs second. It would seem that to do this we should have a total top-level national forest plan delineating our national objectives and the measurable goals and schedule needed to meet these objectives. From this plan, I would expect to see regional plans for implementing the national goals from a regional level, from which would come resource plans at the local national forest level. (Individual, RIGGINS, ID – 1926)

II-5. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should limit decisions to those within the agency's authority.

The Forest Service clearly permits off-highway vehicle use, while requiring it to be regulated. It is the overriding authority, since constitutionally the Congress has sole power over the management of the publicly owned lands. The Executive Orders cannot contradict law on public land issues because there is no shared constitutional authority in this area. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 10861)

. . . one governmental entity (Forest Service) may not generally condemn property already devoted to a public use if the proposed use destroys or so interferes with the existing use of the property that it functionally destroys the existing use. The condemnation of public property in such situations is permitted only where the legislature has expressly or implicitly authorized the acquisition. (County Government, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2081)

Coordination/Consultation with Other Agencies

II-6. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should collaborate with state agencies.

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF AGRIULTURE/WEED MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

The Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests should coordinate with the Idaho Department of Agriculture and local cooperative weed management agencies regarding prevention and control. . . . (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

I am requesting that the Forest Service work in cooperation with Fish and Game to provide adequate winter and summer range for elk. . . . I would also like to know whether the new forest plan will provide for coordination with Fish and Game toward achieving mutual goals for fish and wildlife resources. (Federal Elected Official, WASHINGTON, DC – 10875)

STATE OF IDAHO

The planning team should work closely with the State of Idaho on roadless and recommended wilderness management direction. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

II-7. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consult with federal and state agencies.

The analysis should include formal consultations with Idaho Department of Fish and Game, NOAA Fisheries, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

Coordination/Consultation with Tribes

II-8. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consult with tribal governments.

Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments," was issued on November 6, 2000, to assure meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of federal policies with tribal implications, and to strengthen U.S. government-to-government relationships with Indian tribes. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

The Forest Service needs to continue to consult with the Tribe on a government-to-government basis, and on a technical level throughout the revision process. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 10872)

The American Indian Religious Freedom Act requires that the Forest Service implement and evaluate its policies in consultation with native leaders of traditional religions to determine what is necessary to protect and preserve religious sites . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

COORDINATION AND CONSULATION EFFORTS RECOGNIZED

The Tribe appreciates the forests' diligent efforts to coordinate and consult with the Tribe during the beginning stages of the revision process. . . . The forest plan revision team has met with tribal representatives over the past year to identify and discuss tribal issues of concern and how the revision process can set the stage for addressing, if not resolving those issues. . . .The revision team has invited tribal staff to be included in a set of resource-specific workgroups . . . in general the Tribe appreciates the opportunity to participate at this professional and technical level. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

II-9. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recognize the Nez Perce Tribe as co-manager of the forests.

Much has changed since the initial forest plans for the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests were adopted in the 1980s. The Tribe has dramatically increased its presence and co-management of its trust resources on the national forests. The range of co-management between the Nez Perce Tribe and the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests is expansive, innovative, and a national model. . . . Of paramount concern to the Nez Perce Tribe is the recognition of co-management with the Forest Service. (Tribal Government LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Coordination with Forest Service Units

II-10. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should coordinate with the adjacent Lolo and Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

As someone who is particularly concerned about the Great Burn, an area that touches on three national forests, I hope that attention is being given to coordinating the management plans for adjoining areas, particularly along the state line and in the Mallard Larkin/Five Lakes Butte areas. (Individual, ARLEE, MT – 9825)

We believe it is particularly appropriate and necessary that the Clearwater National Forest work cooperatively with other adjacent forests (Lolo and Idaho Panhandle) to provide consistent management and treatment of, for example, the Great Burn proposed wilderness, parts of which exist on both forests. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

It is our hope that the Clearwater National Forest and the Lolo National Forest will work together for a consistent protection plan for this wonderful area that we have visited and where we had a glimpse of the enormity of Lewis and Clark's Voyage of Discovery. (Individual, BUXTON, ME – 121)

II-11. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should revise according to the regional framework.

While we discussed regional direction concerning preparation of plan revision, it did not appear (or you did not share) there was a framework for revision provided by the regional office that would address many of the issues we discussed. It is not too late for this to happen. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 6)

Influences on Decision-making

II-12. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the input of citizens from throughout the nation.

It is important that citizens from all corners of this nation have a say in how our national forests are cared for. For these forests are parts of the heart of what remains of the "wild west" and as such must never be construed to be belonging to or exploited by a narrow constituency. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA – 3283)

We urge the Clearwater to pay attention to the comments that come from across the county – these voices have a national perspective that should not be ignored. Often these comments come from people who understand the value of wildlands and wildlife because they have lost so much of it, and consequently understand the value of what this region still has. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

Please remember that these are our nation's forests, the shared property of us all. My views count just as much as any other citizen, wherever they live. I may not be next door to these lands, but please respect my views, and my rights to my property. (Individual, BERKELEY, CA – 5426)

II-13. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should give more consideration to local comments.

I submit to you that the comments of the citizens of the communities that you impact are of greater importance than those from outside the area. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 64)

Connect with the users and understand what they need. Then decisions can be made to resolve conflicts, help grow the economy, and improve the environment. See how the land is being used and listen to the local residents who have lived on the land for generations. (Recreational, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2103)

The Forest Supervisor must make all planning decisions, whether they are a forest plan or a site specific project level plan performed by a district office as consistent as possible to the plans and desires of adjacent communities. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

The Clearwater/Nez Perce has the opportunity to develop a good working forest plan if you listen to the people that use the forest and not to post card campaigns by people that don't support the forest by paying camping fees, buying off-road vehicle tags, boat stickers, recreational vehicle licenses and permits – wood permits, Christmas tree tags or other forest products permits. If you count votes they must be in person not by proxies. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 4379)

II-14. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should interpret and apply environmental laws correctly.

Our fervent hope is that your efforts are not obstructed by or colored by the misuse or misinterpretation of the Federal Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act or any other federal environmental law to accomplish some individual's or groups of managers' preferences as has been documented in various other efforts around the nation. (Motorized Recreation, WHITE BIRD, ID – 32)

We further encourage you to avoid being overly zealous in response to what can be, and often is, misinterpretation of the Federal Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. (Livestock Industry, WHITE BIRD, ID – 2095)

II-15. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should be open-minded and unbiased.

You also describe the need for a change in emphasis, including an increase in the use of fire to restore vegetation. Who decided this prior to the comment period? That statement exemplifies a pre-determined and arbitrary position. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 3767)

My concern has to do with the underlying philosophy of the Forest Service as it pertains to this document which seems to take on a bias of extreme environmentalism. . . . Please consider overall that you may need to rethink your level of unbiased open mindedness and start without any preconceived notions about fire versus timber harvest. (County Government, OROFINO, ID – 5387)

I strongly disagree with how the entire revision process began from an already biased stance toward preservation. The revision process should begin with professionals explaining what the resource can provide, followed by the public commenting on what they want from it. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 3767)

This mish mash of vague proposals fully demonstrates that you are in league with radical environmental organizations in a move to destroy local mills and dependent communities. (Individual, KOOSKIA, ID - 5383)

II-16. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should communicate people's desires regarding wilderness to elected officials.

That wilderness is personal is absolute. That wilderness is political is not only unfortunate, it is a devastating turn of political fortune. . . . It is up to you to hear the voices of concerned citizens and declare them valid. Beyond the political fortunes and misfortunes of deal making in Washington D.C., wilderness and the Great Burn need help, please. (Individual, ARLEE, MT – 1168)

Decision-making Philosophy

General

II-17. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should be mindful of the future.

Please make wise long-term decisions not short-sighted, profit-oriented ones. (Individual, EMERSON, NJ – 5446)

Preservation Emphasis

II-18. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should emphasize the preservation of natural resources.

Conserve, protect and restore all native wildlife and plant species on public lands. Manage roadless lands to protect all their natural resource values and allow natural processes to define their character. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Please think of the future and future generations in your forest plan revision work. . . If there are any doubts, please be conservative, in the true sense of that word, and plan in ways that preserve possibilities rather than reduce them. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 4386)

Multiple-use Emphasis

II-19. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should be managed.

I want the forest managers to consider the impacts of not managing the forest. I believe you'll find that many times the "do nothing" option ultimately causes more damage than management projects. (Individual, LEWISTON, ID – 34)

II-20. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider outputs as the main focus of management actions.

. . . you state that the process will focus on healthy ecosystems and that outputs will be a result of ecosystem management. Who decided this? I would not argue that this day and age most reasonable people expect our forests to be managed sustainably for all outputs, but the outputs should still be the main focus of our management, not simply a by-product of over-protectionist management. The U.S. Forest Service is mandated to manage as a multiple-use agency . . . . (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 3767)

II-21. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should be managed in accordance with the agency's multiple-use mandate.

These forests belong to everyone and should be managed in the spirit of the "multi-use" mandate handed down by Congress in 1969. (Individual, DENVER, CO – 950)

In my opinion the revised plan needs to get back to the basics of "multiple-use" and using the forest lands for the greatest good for the greatest number of people. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 4379)

Provide for expanded multiple-use. The primary use in each management area should not be based on historic use, but instead on a use that will produce maximum benefit to the nation and the local communities. (Individual, RIGGINS, ID – 1926)

The Forest Service is encouraged to promote multiple-use and not exclusive use. Exclusive-use is the antithesis of public access and recreational opportunities within public lands. Management for exclusive use runs counter to Congressional directives for management of public lands. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 10861)

II-22. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should assure public access and use.

. . . the American public needs to be assured that access can be expected unless resource conditions precludes it. Therefore, we urge you to find other ways to manage our forests that begin with the premise that the public is able to use the lands with some restrictions rather than assuming everything is restricted with a few areas open. (Federal Elected Official, WASHINGTON, DC – 10869)

II-23. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop a balanced management approach.

The Forest Service needs to view the timber industry as a serious forest management element in thinning, harvest, and protection. A fundamental goal is to work with the timber industry, communities, and environmental groups in managing our forest's renewable resources and protecting habitat – we need a balanced approach. (Individual, COTTONWOOD, ID – 142)

Ecosystems Emphasis

II-24. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should emphasize healthy forest ecosystems.

This is a good premise to start and I think everyone could agree that healthy ecosystems are a reasonable and prudent goal. (County Government, OROFINO, ID – 5387)

The test of any portion of the forest revision should rest solely on the health and sustainability of the forest. Although we love to engage in activities in the forest, if something that we are engaging in is detrimental to the forest, we understand the need to put the health of the forest ecosystem first. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 136)

Idaho Department of Fish and Game also supports the proposal to move toward ecosystem management for the forest with the condition that the focus of management should be the protection and perpetuation of species and ecosystems within the forests. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS ARE A BASIS FOR RESTORATION

Clear priorities that place ecosystem health as the central management objective will start the forests on a path of recovery, which will make them better able to establish a sustainable level of use and resource viability, instead of maintaining the current degraded condition. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Focusing on healthy ecosystems will be a great benefit for the long-term management and stewardship of the Clearwater National Forest. Emphasizing restoration of listed fish species, the use of fire in vegetation management, specific management direction for roadless areas, treatment of noxious weeds, and improving management of motorized and non-motorized recreation area all actions that will benefit the forest. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

Using the approach of ecosystem management has the potential for successfully protecting, restoring and maintaining "healthy, resilient ecosystems" while providing adequate recreation and resource use with fewer conflicts. (Federal Agency SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

SUPPORT FOR FORESTWIDE DIRECTION

We commend the U.S. Forest Service for its desire to achieve healthy resilient landscapes and watersheds, diverse recreation opportunities, sustainable flow of products and amenities, and positive working relationships. (Federal Agency/Elected Official, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

Adaptive Management Emphasis

II-25. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should include a formal "adaptive management" process in forest plans.

. . . please include a detailed process of adaptive management, including detailed monitoring protocols and mechanism for incorporating new information into future decision making. . . . As important as it is to base planning on some knowledge of the land, it is at least as important to be able to adapt management in response to new information. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID –3784)

Public Involvement

II-26. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should adopt a different public involvement strategy for forest plan revision.

The Clearwater-Nez Perce zone team should set up geographic community work groups like the Kootenai-Idaho Panhandle planning zone. The team can use the work groups to develop desired future conditions for the geographic areas. The workgroup statements can also be used to develop alternatives. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

A public user committee should be formed to aid in determining public use of national forest land. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 4461)

II-27. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should involve a wide-range of stakeholders in forest plan revision.

Involve a wide range of stakeholders to gain cooperation from different groups that utilize the forest and forest products as well as coordination and cooperation from other local, state and federal agencies and Tribes. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

The management of public lands should be with the consent of the land owners, the public. Without hearing from most of the public, you are excluding a very large majority of the landowners. . . . a representative sample of public opinion should be considered. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 10867)

ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Forest Service needs to consistently communicate with elected officials and stakeholders in management planning, the final plan, and its implementation. (Individual, COTTONWOOD, ID – 142)

MINORITY AND LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS

The Forest Service should develop a strategy for effective public involvement of minority (e.g. Native American) and low-income populations in land management considerations, analyzing environmental, social, cultural and economic effects, and developing mitigation measures. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

II-28. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should continue to implement its public involvement strategy.

We would like to compliment the Clearwater and Nez Perce revision team for their efforts so far in involving the public in the revision process. The Wilderness Society encourages the Forest Service to continue this approach through the remainder of the revision process. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests are to be commended for their receptivity to public input. While not perfect, the open process for gathering public comment on these two forests is clearly better than the use of "working groups" or formal hearings. . . . The opportunity afforded by the current Clearwater/Nez Perce revision process – where any member of the public may write comments or meet with the revision team and talk about concerns on an individual basis – is clearly a more enfranchising approach. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 11206)

II-29. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should work to build consensus.

The forests . . . have chosen a path where the planning staff and forest leadership make the decisions regarding plan direction, allowing the work groups only to react to the decisions rather than help shape the decisions. We believe helping to form the decisions, framing the management plan would be more productive and would result in fewer questions and more consensus among the work group and core planning participants. We suggest the forest planning team submit more tasks to the work groups for review and recommendation rather than make the decisions themselves and then seek input. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

One approach to achieve this goal (change in focus) is by consensus building so that all parties involved develop a fundamental understanding of what constitutes healthy, resilient ecosystems. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

Projects should have a two-way, consensus building stakeholder involvement in the EIS (environmental impact statement) process. (Federal Agency/Elected Official, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

II-30. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider and act on the input it receives from the public.

. . . please understand that we are somewhat uneasy about the entire (collaborative) process given past experiences where input is given but the final outcome of a Forest Service effort bears little relationship to stated goals or promises of consideration of input from the public. (Motorized Recreation, WHITE BIRD, ID – 32)

Public comment is critical in defining how that forest plan revision moves forward, and what issues are important in developing a forest plan that provides adequate recreational opportunities, clean water and air, healthy forests, thriving wildlife populations, and all the other values of our national forests that Idahoans hold so dear. (Federal Elected Official, WASHINGTON, DC – 10869)

This time there absolutely must be a return on the invested effort spent by the local public in the process. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 6)

Public Involvement Methods

II-31. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should hold public meetings.

Hold public meetings on forest plans via advertisements on radio, newspaper, and announcements on local news. Local news aired at 5:30 and 6:00 is viewed by a large population. (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT – 3891)

II-32. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should provide additional information to the public.

Federal land use planning isn't easy for the general public to understand and participation could be better if the Forest Service provided supplemental information to the public. (Note: A detailed list of suggestions follows) (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 10861)

II-33. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should form a committee to make decisions related to roadless area management.

I recommend forming a local or state committee to make a decision on the matter (updating direction for roadless areas not recommended as wilderness). Asking for state government or congressional mandate would be good also. (Individual, JULIAETTA, ID – 4886)

II-34. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should re-initiate the "limits of acceptable change" public involvement process.

Reinitiate the public "limits of acceptable change" process and continue with updating the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (SBW) management plan direction. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4381)

Agency Communication

II-35. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should use forest plan revision to communicate resource management messages.

ACCESS

It should be pointed out to the public that over 99 percent of the Clearwater/Nez Perce national forests are open to access for all citizens. It is important to communicate to the public that those who are unable to walk are offered many opportunities to experience the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests with over 6,000 miles of roads. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

COMMON GROUND

We really need to view forest management in a new perspective, change the language, find the areas of common ground instead of dividing the ground into clearcut and wilderness. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5434)

FIRE

We recommend this forest planning cycle contain an educational initiative to portray fire as a natural part of the landscape that can't be suppressed indefinitely without consequences. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

We believe forest plan revisions offer opportunities to address the heavy reliance on fire suppression by promoting increased public understanding of the necessary role of fire in forest ecosystems, and attempting to restore more natural fire disturbance regimes to forest ecosystems. (Federal Agency/Elected Official, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

OLD GROWTH

. . . communicate to the public the importance of old growth for wildlife and other non-market reasons such as spiritual renewal for humans, impacts on water quality, fire behavior, etc. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Collaboration and Partnerships

II-36. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should work in cooperation with other user groups.

If the Forest Service would work with all of the forest user groups instead of trying to close them out of these beautiful areas, great things could be accomplished. (Individual, LEWISTON, ID – 36)

I would value the people who actually recreate in the forest in my decision and allow them to be involved with forest care. The Forest Service needs to actually listen to the people who love these areas instead of thinking that we know nothing. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 1162)

The Forests should focus on strengthening partnerships, and creating new ones to ensure that high priority watershed restoration work is accomplished during the life of the new forest plans. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

CITY GOVERNMENTS

We would like to work with the Forest Service to utilize the tools, policies and guidelines developed through local resource working groups in developing alternatives for consideration. (City Government, OROFINO, ID – 3281)

FISHERIES ORGANIZATIONS

Each of Trout Unlimited's more than 450 chapters donates 1000 hours of volunteer time restoring streams and repairing watersheds, and we are acutely aware of the importance of local input and assistance for long-term support of conservation and environmental protection. (Preservation/Conservation, POLLOCK, ID – 1142)

MOUNTAIN BIKE ORGANIZATIONS

International Mountain Bicycling Association believes the following policies should generally apply on national forest lands. Decisions about prohibiting bicycling should only be reached with involvement of the bicycling community, preferably in public collaboration forums. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4387)

The travel management collaboration process should include in-depth, site-specific discussions of every proposed wilderness and roadless area. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4387)

TIMBER INDUSTRY

The timber industry desires a partnership with the Forests to address the challenges presented by current resource conditions. The surface has barely been scratched in developing new and innovative ways to improve forest health. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

TRAILS USERS

Users groups are willing and able to assist the Forest Service in planning and implementing trail systems as well and working in cooperation with grant application and trail maintenance. (Elected Official/Association, OROFINO, ID – 2096)

I believe that by partnering with user groups and working together to find creative ways to address trail use issues we can solve the problems and still keep the trails open to motorized vehicles. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 7982)

II-37. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should work in cooperation with other groups to control the spread of noxious weeds.

The Tribe believes the Forest should work with local weed control groups and agencies to obtain and sell weed free hay to people accessing the back country with horses to assure hay used is weed free. (Tribal government, LAPWAI, ID - 3867)

We would like to encourage the forest plan to include cooperative partnerships with those who continue to research so as to work together for a common solution. If the areas of impact can utilize the same eradication program, the effectiveness will be much higher. (Business, OROFINO, ID - 4377)

II-38. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop strategies to deal with conflict.

The revised forest plan should recommend management strategies that will help find solutions to historic fights over our forests and trails. (Individual, CHENEY, WA – 4903)

We need to move beyond the fight between environmentalists and the timber industry, to looking at how best to manage our forests, efficiently and effectively while leaving a legacy for future generations. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5434)

Adequacy of Comment Period

II-39. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should allow longer comment timeframes.

There has been inadequate time to gather and formulate comments from all affected individuals due to the all-encompassing nature of this proposal and the huge area it covers. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

II-40. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should complete the revisions as quickly as possible.

We believe both the Clearwater and Nez Perce forest plans have become dysfunctional, and we are supportive of completing the revision process as quickly as possible. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 6)

Use of Science

II-41. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should use the best available science.

Base all decisions on peer reviewed, verifiable, scientific data, not speculative or ocular estimates. (Agriculture Association, GRANGEVILLE, ID –3854)

All the collaboration and consensus cannot correct flawed resource data. . (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 6)

Fish and wildlife and their habitats depend on us and you for making informed, intelligent decisions based on good science, not the politics of the far right and those only interested in raping and pillaging the forests that are owned by all Americans. (Individual, TIGARD, OR – 6127)

I ask that we learn from past mistakes regarding over-harvesting, irreversible soil damage, falling water quality, and the increased number of threatened and endangered species. I can only hope that we make decisions based on the most recent, objective research available to effectively manage these direly important forests. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 5438)

ACCESS MANAGEMENT

Scientific evidence overwhelmingly demonstrates that motorized activities adversely affect watersheds and wildlife. In our view, controversies about the use of motorized vehicles in the forests reflect the relative values various user groups place on ecosystem health versus their particular recreational interests, not whether motorized use has adverse impacts. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

Any access limits imposed in the forest plan revision should have a definitive scientific and factual foundation. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

AQUATIC RESOURCES

The best available science calls for an integrated watershed and aquatic strategy. . . . An ecologically sound watershed and aquatic conservation strategy is necessary to sustain healthy ecosystems and close the gap between existing and desired conditions. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

Specific numeric standards and objectives for such elements as aquatic habitat condition, old growth, snags, down wood, frequency of entry into watersheds need to be carefully based on the best science we have, should consider the dynamic nature of natural watershed and terrestrial processes, and allow for the full range of natural conditions in the landscape, wherever possible. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

FIRE

Guidelines based on new sound science should update the present fire management plans. . . . Fire suppression needs to be recognized as interfering with natural functions and processes. Consequences of fire suppression need to be disclosed to the public. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

MANAGEMENT INDICATOR SPECIES

MIS species need to be retained and monitored. If sound science can identify more or better indicator species, then please disclose this information. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

ROADS

The multitude of negative ecological effects from roads is demonstrated clearly by current scientific studies. . . . As national forests implement the direction in the roads policy to minimize the ecological damage caused by an overbuilt road system, the best available science must be used to inform decisions. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

VEGETATION

The best available science today indicates that the forest vegetation of the Clearwater National Forest will follow neither the successional pathways nor arrive at the endpoints expected by Cooper et al. (1987) or by Pfister and Arno (1980, Classifying forest habitat types based on potential climax vegetation, Forest Science 26:52-70.) (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

II-42. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should use science from the following sources:

We are very pleased that the forest is proposing to integrate findings and knowledge gained through the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) and implement recommendations in the Interior Columbia Basin Strategy on national forests lands (ICB Strategy). . . . (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

ACCESS MANAGEMENT

A report titled "Motorized Access on Montana's Rocky Mountain Front: A Synthesis of Scientific Literature and Recommendations for Use in Revision of the Travel Plan for the Rocky Mountain Division." . . . contains numerous recommendations that the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests should consider in its long term travel planning effort. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

BIODIVERSITY

CEQ prepared guidance entitled, "Incorporating Biodiversity Considerations Into Environmental Impact Analysis Under the National Environmental Policy Act" . . . . SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

FIRE

We expect . . . the Forest Service will feel under considerable pressure to utilize existing methods for discriminating fire regime condition class (Schmidt et al. 2002). We highly recommend against this course of action. . . . Rather than relying on these flawed methods, we suggest the forest simply start with ponderosa pine forests as the best places to assess project specific restoration potential on a case-by-case basis. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

TRIBAL RESOURCES

The Nez Perce Tribe is a signatory to *Wy-Kan_Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit: Spirit of the Salmon*, the Columbia River Anadromous Fish Restoration Plan of the Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs and Yakima Tribes. The Nez Perce Tribe also was the lead entity who developed the draft Clearwater Subbasin Plan as part of the Fish and Wildlife Program of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. The Tribe expects the Forest Service to carry out the duties of the Forest Service manual to become familiar with these two plans that the Tribe has co-authored and to resolve any inconsistencies between the tribal plans and revised forest plans. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

VEGETATION

What is needed is a reasonable detailed map of existing, or actual, vegetation associations and alliances occurring within the Clearwater National Forest. The approach for doing this should be based on the Federal Geographic Data Committee's "Vegetation Classification and Information Standards.". . . Standards have been developed by the Ecological Society of America. . . . (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

WATER/WATER QUALITY

There is a Memorandum of Understanding among several federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in support of this program, called the Federal Multi-Agency Source Water Agreement that can be found on the web at, http://cleanwater.gov/swa/. In addition there is a U.S. Forest Service document entitled "Drinking Water from Forests and Grasslands," General Technical Report SRS-39 that is meant for the forest manager . . . . (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

WILDLIFE/ELK

The Pacific Northwest Research Station has issued a report titled "Assessing the Cumulative Effects of Linear Recreation Routes on Wildlife Habitats on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests." There are approaches in this report that could be duplicated on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

II-43. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop a sound scientific assessment regarding off-highway vehicle use.

Off-road vehicles should be allowed only where a sound scientific assessment shows that they do not harm watersheds by increasing erosion, do not disrupt wildlife habitat, do not contribute to exotic weed infestations that damage native plant communities and do not conflict with other forest recreationists. (Individual, BENSENVILLE, IL – 2232

Agency Funding

II-44. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should direct funding to on-the-ground management.

Fund on-the-ground management – wilderness rangers, with emphasis on reducing resource impacts and meeting the stated objectives of the existing Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Limits of Acceptable Change Plan. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4381)

Programs and budgets should be constructed to further achievement of these objectives, with balance of funding prioritized to achieve aquatic, terrestrial and social objectives, not only timber outputs. This multi-faceted approach to resource management will provide the greatest community benefits in terms of economic, social, and biological outcomes. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 5441)

II-45. Federal employees on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests should collect monitoring data and make management decisions.

Monitoring and management decisions, as well as the collection of data used in those decisions, should be kept in the hands of federal public employees, not out-sourced to private companies with conflicts of interest. Public employees serve the American people by making thoughtful, objective decisions that benefit the land, not some bottom line. (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN – 12)

II-46 The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider that resources must be allocated to priority areas.

In order to move toward the desired condition in the most efficient manner, the forests will need to allocate limited resources to priority areas. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Budget constraints will limit (recreation) development. A priority of future projects should be disclosed to the public. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

II-47. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should lay the foundation for partnerships to accomplish restoration work.

In light of current and future budget limitations, the ability to carry out such a restoration agenda may be limited, and will require creative thinking and an expansion of partnerships, laying a foundation for such an agenda in the forest plans. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

II-48. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider eliminating subsidies to timber companies.

It is high time for the Forest Service to stop spending taxpayer money to build logging roads that subsidize profits of private companies. (Individual, SHELBURNE, VT – 5429)

II-49. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the effects of extractive activities on socioeconomic and other costs.

. . . Extractive activities result in many externalized socioeconomic costs and foregone economic activity, such as biodiversity loss, loss of income to non-timber forest product companies, increased water pollution, and an enormous financial burden on taxpayers. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Funding to Participate in Forest Plan Revision

II-50. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should explore ways to fund the Nez Perce Tribe's participation in forest plan revision.

We would appreciate your assistance in exploring funding that may be available or ways to amend the process to address the reality of limited resources. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Funding to Implement the Forest Plan

II-51. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop a budget strategy to accomplish management objectives.

Please also include in the draft plan, the budget necessary to accomplish adaptive management and contingency plans in case those budget requirements are not met. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

The plan revision must be done right. It must be adequately funded, and scientifically and technically correct, or else implementation will suffer the same fate as the original plan. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH – 6)

We are a nation at war and national priorities are unlikely to address recreation management shortfalls through Congressional budget allocation anytime soon. Recreation and wilderness management in the Forest Service are already struggling under current budget allocations. There is no way you can properly manage an even more intensive and complicated access management plan. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

II-52. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop a plan to pay for restoration work.

The 1987 plan didn't seem to have much value in it. What makes this plan different? What pays for all the restoration work? (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

Staffing

II-53. The Nez Perce National Forest should separate the old Moose Creek Ranger District from the combined Selway-Moose Creek District and hire a wilderness coordinator.

To help re-achieve quality wilderness management in the Nez Perce Forest, separate the old Moose Creek Ranger District from the current combined Fenn-Moose Creek District . . . . Re-institute the wilderness coordinator position for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, until such time as this Wilderness can be placed under single unit management. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4381)

Volunteers

II-54. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider involving users in the stewardship of the national forests.

I would then allow each forest user group to help improve forest health by taking care of the areas they use and if they did what they were supposed to do, this would ensure them access and improve forest health. (Individual, – OROFINO, ID 3775)

I would allow the people who love the forest to help with its care. While following the proper regulations, the user groups together with the Forest Service could improve trails and special sites. Human power working with Mother Nature would greatly improve our ecosystem. (Individual, – OROFINO, ID)

. . . allow each group to show how they can help improve the areas that they use. The Forest Service can use this extra man-power to cut their costs while improving forest conditions. I know from the history of motorized trail use that the motorized groups already do this and it works well. (Individual, – OROFINO, ID)

II-55. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the importance of enlisting off-highway vehicle group volunteers to perform needed work.

If funds are short for such (trails) projects, the Forest Service should put more effort into enlisting volunteers. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4387)

The public is very supportive of the use of volunteers in the motorized off-highway vehicle program. Volunteering helps to instill a sense of ownership and pride within the motorized off-highway vehicle community and promotes motorized off-highway vehicle use. Volunteers are an excellent resource to help in the education of the public, in trail design and maintenance, and in monitoring and patrolling for protection. (Individual, ELK CITY, ID – 1145)

Rather than wholesale closure of trails, the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service should establish relationships with user groups, such as PLAY or the numerous off-road recreational clubs in the area, and facilitate using volunteers from these groups to help the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service with trail maintenance and the establishment of new trails as the need or demand arises. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 3849)

The Forest Service should also work with off-highway vehicle groups on implementing a weed control program in which club members hand pull weeds before they seed, similar to the “Adopt a Highway” program. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

II-56. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider limiting partnerships to those off-highway vehicle groups with proven track records.

Proffered funds and partnerships by off-highway vehicle organizations for trail and trail system development, upgrades, improvements, promotion, and maintenance should not be accepted unless the partnership organization has a proven track record of self-policing its user group, can prove its ability to sustain the necessary funding levels, and will actively participate in the obliteration of an equal mileage of user-created, non-system travel ways. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170

Forest Plan Implementation

II-57. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests must develop functional forest plans.

Make the plan work; the 1987 plan was a ten pound doorstop. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

Chapter 3 – Revision Documents

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Revision Documents

Purpose and Need for Proposed Action

III-1. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider how it frames plan revisions.

Blue Ribbon Coalition strongly encourages the Forest Service to embrace the spirit of NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) by including the following in the next stage of planning: Clear and concise description of current, amended management and enough information so decision makers and the general public will be able to discern a logical connection between the current condition as well as the need for change and the preferred alternative. Describe the affected environment in enough detail to support the need and the range of alternatives. Adequate disclosure of the effects to the human environment so decision makers and the general public to fully understand the nexus between the impacts of each alternative and the conclusions and ultimately the decision reached by the Deciding Officer. Adequate disclosure so decision makers and the general public can fully understand the nexus between decisions made in the revised plan what impacts those decisions may have on implementation level planning projects. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

The proposed action lacks the framework for consideration of possible impacts. At the very minimum, the proposed action should indicate whether the goal is to (increase, decrease or maintain) the current status of (wildlife, habitat condition, miles of road/square mile, vegetative component, etc.) forest-wide and on a geographic area scale. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

VISION STATEMENT

We strongly suggest the revision team create a vision statement to help focus the revision process. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 23)

Planning Rule

III-2. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should follow the 1982 planning rule.

GENERAL

We urge you to continue the revision process under the 1982 rule to afford Fish and Game and other stakeholders ample opportunity to help shape the plan. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

The Wilderness Society would like to take this opportunity to urge the Clearwater and Nez Perce forest plan revision team to continue its revision effort under the National Forest Management Act rules that were in effect prior to November 9, 2000. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 11205

. . . the Idaho Conservation League urges you to continue to use the National Forest Management Act regulations that have been in effect for more than 20 years and not to switch to the new National Forest Management Act regulations. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 10783)

Please, please revise the two plans using the regulations adopted in 1982!!! Sure planning is expensive, but nobody has tried to make it less expensive without making it a simple, meaningless exercise. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10784)

REVISION FRAMEWORK

The thing that frightens me the most is that under the new planning regulations the Forest Service would adopt "environmental management system". This is nothing but a euphemistic name for industrial forest management used on private industrial timberlands. The "environmental management system" is the process that turns real forests into tree farms. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10784)

. . . The Forest Service has not yet released for public comment the planning directives to implement the National Forest Management Act regulations. The regulations by themselves provide very little guidance on many critically important planning issues . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 11205)

INADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS

. . . we are very concerned that the new National Forest Management Act regulations provide inadequate environmental safeguards, compared to the regulations under which the original forest plans were developed. We are especially concerned about the elimination of the requirement to maintain adequate habitat to support viable populations of vertebrate species. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 11205)

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The revision process for the Clearwater and Nez Perce forest plan has been a model of openness and public involvement. Adoption of the recently-released regulations for this effort would be a serious step backward in that regard. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 11205

DOCUMENTATION

We are very concerned about the elimination from the planning process of the environmental and public review requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The new regulations allow forest plan revisions and amendments to be categorically excluded from NEPA documentation. Id. At 219.4 (b). A separate Forest Service proposal to establish a new categorical exclusion for land management plans was published on January 5 and is currently available for public comment until March 7, 2005. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 10783)

Eliminating National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) from the forest planning process also appears to violate specific direction in the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) that the regulations "insure that land management plans are prepared in accordance with (NEPA)." 16 USC 1604 (g)(1). We urge you to consider the potential waste of time and effort of switching to the new regulations if they are challenged in court and eventually determined to be illegal. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 10783)

We have serious concerns about the new regulations. In particular, we are very concerned about the elimination of the environmental and public review requirements (an environmental impact statement (EIS) under National Environmental Policy Act {NEPA}) from the planning process. The use of categorical exclusions (CEs) for plan revisions is clearly inadequate. . . . Eliminating National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) from the forest planning process also appears to violate specific direction in the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) that the regulations "insure that land management plans are prepared in

accordance with (NEPA)." . . . We are also skeptical that the regulations will result in a more efficient and timely planning process. The new regulations must be preceded by an Environmental Management System (EMS) for the national forest or planning area. Environmental Management System (EMS) is a planning and monitoring process that has been adopted by large timber corporations. To our knowledge it has never before been applied to national forests or other public lands. Such a new system will require considerable time and effort to implement. . . . The new National Forest Management Act (NFMA) regulations provide very little guidance on crucial issues, such as fish and wildlife viability roadless area review and wilderness recommendations. The elimination of the requirement to maintain adequate habitat to support viable populations of native vertebrate species fails the standard of agency accountability and will result in increased controversy over national forest planning. The roadless review and wilderness recommendation issue is huge in Idaho due to the lack of wilderness legislation. As such, the new regulations fail to meet the standards of environmental integrity and public interest we expect from those who ostensibly serve us. Furthermore, the new regulations exclude explicit requirements of National Forest Management Act (NFMA) such as silvicultural prescriptions and a determination of whether an area is suited for logging. While the Federal Register notice states that the directives will be released "as soon a possible," we are concerned that it may be many months before local forest planners receive clear direction about how to interpret and apply the new regulations. The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest plans currently have important standards to protect fish habitat and water quality. . . developed to protect important anadromous and inland fisheries and sensitive batholithic soils, and to meet binding legal and moral obligations under treaty rights. The new planning regulations allow no room for these kinds of necessary and measurable standards in forests such as the Clearwater or Nez Perce. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 11206)

We believe it would be a serious mistake to eliminate National Environmental Policy Act review and documentation from the Clearwater/Nez Perce plan revision process. For example, people will have less access to information about the environmental impacts of the proposed plan or to supply information about the comparative advantages and disadvantages of various alternatives. In addition, the Forest Service will not be required to study or disclose to the public the cumulative environmental effects of management activities across the national forest. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 11205)

. . . we are very concerned about the elimination from the planning process of the environmental and public review requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The new regulations allow forest plan revisions and amendments to be categorically excluded from NEPA documentation. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 10783)

CONSISTENCY WITH EXISTING LAWS

With uncertainty surrounding implementation of the new regulations and the potential for judicial delays, we urge you to proceed with the revision process under the 1982 regulations. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

Eliminating National Environmental Policy Act from the forest planning process also appears to violate specific direction in the National Forest Management Act that the regulations "insure that land management plans are prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act" (16 USC 1604(g)(1). We urge you to consider the potential waste of time and effort of switching to the new regulations if they are challenged in court and eventually determined to be illegal. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 11205)

TIMBER HARVEST

. . . The thing that frightens me the most is that under the new planning regulations the Forest Service would adopt "environmental management system". This is nothing but a euphemistic name for industrial forest management used on private industrial timberlands. The "environmental management system" is the process that turns real forests into tree farms. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10784)

III-3. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should revise according to the 2004 planning rule.

I want to communicate for the record Intermountain Forest Association's strong support for full and immediate implementation of the new 2005 planning rules . . . .(Timber Industry, COEUR D'ALENE, ID – 11204)

PREVIOUS RULE CONTRIBUTED TO INACTION

. . . the forest plans from these (previous) planning rules did not serve as templates for action, and in many cases. . . contributed substantially to the "analysis paralysis" often cited by Forest Service leaders and suffered by private parties with an interest in federal forest policy. In all resource management areas the Forest Service planning and decision-making system is broken and in desperate need of repair . . . . (Timber Industry, COEUR D'ALENE, ID – 11204)

I want to communicate for the record Riley Creek's strong support for full and immediate implementation of the new 2005 planning rules . . . . In spite of good intentions, the previous planning rules contributed substantially to the "analysis paralysis" often cited by Forest Service leaders and suffered by private parties with an interest in federal forest policy. In all resource management areas the Forest Service planning and decision making system is broken and in desperate need of repair. It is not longer possible to mix the old management planning framework with the new vision Chief Dale Bosworth holds for the agency. (Timber Industry, LACLEDE, ID – 11208)

DYNAMIC, STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The new rule establishes a dynamic framework to account for changing forest conditions, while emphasizing sound science and local public involvement. The result should be more timely and definitive plans and management direction for the Forest Service, and more credibility and support from the public. (Timber Industry, COEUR D'ALENE, ID – 11204)

The 2004 rule provides the opportunity to explore and define "desired social, economic and environmental conditions" within a strategic framework. The associated Environmental Management System (EMS) provides for real time adaptive management. This positions the national forests to deal more effectively with constantly evolving social, economic and resource conditions. We look forward under the new rule to exploring new and innovative ways to assist the Forest Service create agreed upon desired conditions. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 11207).

Documents

Analysis of Management Situation

III-4. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should complete the Analysis of Management Situation.

Friends of the Clearwater has had some reservations about the Analysis of the Management Situation and Social Assessment for the Clearwater Nez Perce zone that, in our opinion, have been incomplete by not reflecting the entire management situation or the social landscape of the local areas. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 23)

III-5. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should use a more specific rather than a general approach in providing background information for plan revisions.

The analysis of the management situation and social study are helpful to a point; however, they are fairly general and open to many interpretations. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

III-6. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should use a more direct writing style in the plan revision.

The writing style of this section (of the draft AMS) is indirect and confusing. The author relies on passive voice sentence construction, which makes documents like this quite hard to follow. This revision is supposed to be about action; however, it is never clear just what is being proposed. Clean up writing. Clearly state proposed changes. If a change to the plan is recommended, but the author is unsure what this change will be, please state this. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 10870)

III-7. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should use information in the plan revision that can be scientifically supported.

(In the draft AMS) suggesting local climate change as a factor in current aquatic species can not be scientifically supported with the current level of data collected . . . . (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID)

The current impacts of climatic variability are insignificant at the population level when compared to impacts of past and present forest management; and, at any rate, nearly impossible to quantify in a credible monitoring effort. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 10870)

III-8. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should clarify some statements.

The Analysis of the Management Situation states there is a need to "Update the Aquatic Conservation Strategy to be consistent with other resource objectives." This statement is unclear, and seems to place the emphasis of management incorrectly. The AMS clearly outlines that the vast majority of native fish populations (Chinook, steelhead, bull trout, and to a lesser extent westslope cutthroat trout) are depressed across their range (Analysis of Management Situation, p. 26). (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Social Assessment

III-9. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider that the Social Assessment is incomplete.

Friends of the Clearwater has had some reservations about the Analysis of the Management Situation and Social Assessment for the Clearwater Nez Perce Zone that, in our opinion, have been incomplete by not reflecting the entire management situation or the social landscape of the local areas. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 23)

III-10. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should use the social assessment findings to guide decision making.

The Tribe encourages the forests to closely examine the findings in the social assessment and to keep these diverse concerns at the forefront of decision making throughout the forest plan revision process. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Proposed Action

III-11. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests have drafted an appropriate proposed action.

. . . I am quite pleased and supportive of what you have produced thus far. I think you have got it basically right and hope that the final version is not a serious retreat from what you are proposing. (Individual, ARLEE, MT – 9844)

We strongly support the proposed change from managing the forest for commodity outputs, to managing the forest for healthy ecosystems. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 39)

(Proposed Action) Good comments we support include: p.3 change in focus - ecological principles will drive management actions. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

We agree that the revised plan should be updated to clarify where road construction and timber harvests are and are not allowed; where motorized recreation is and is not allowed; and how prescribed and wildland fires will be managed throughout the forest but, especially, in roadless and wilderness areas. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID - 3853)

III-12. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recognize the proposed action is inadequate.

This proposed forest plan revision is a total disgrace. It totally fails to meet Forest Service obligations to provide an adequate source of timber for dependent communities. (Individual, KOOSKIA, ID – 5383)

I feel the proposal action should have been more neutral and if changes are necessary make them later. The team writing this plan was very biased. (Timber Industry, KOOSKIA, ID – 1922)

It appears from other sections of the Proposed Action that seem to contradict the statement on page 10 that allotment management plans and policy do not provide adequate direction to achieve revised plan goals. For example, the proposed management direction for the Palouse River, Potlatch River and other geographic areas includes a goal to “incorporate in allotment management plans the need to provide food and cover for wildlife.” (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

p.4 "expand area where wildfire is allowed"
p.6 Watersheds "strengthen forest plan direction to conserve and restore aquatic resources" "The analysis will consider resource capability and suitability."
p.8 "add goals, objectives and standards that establish prevention and contain-and-control strategies." (for weeds)
p.8 "reflect the range of natural processes for species representation.
p.9 "consistent direction is needed" for areas recommended for wilderness. (closed to motors and mechanical)
p.10 "to sustain natural systems and function properly."
p.12 "clearly articulate how they use public input." Please do.
"rivers and streams need to be evaluated to be recommended for wild and scenic rivers.
p.12 Terrestrial "reflect natural processes within a range of natural conditions..."
p.12 Will restore and maintain the physical, chemical and biological integrity of these ecosystems." (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

III-13. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the level of information and direction for plan revisions.

ACCESS MANAGEMENT

Public Land Access Year-round (PLAY) is concerned that tribal access is mentioned many times as a separate issue. Is the Forest Service thinking along the lines that tribal access may be different or more liberal than access by the general public? The Forest Service is very vague here and we ask the Forest Service to more clearly state their position. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389

Many Forest Service staff forget that ATV stands for all-terrain vehicle, and many users accept risk or even embrace it. Under the fear of safety concerns, all rivers should be closed to floating, steep area roped off from hikers, hunting banned and horse travel prohibited. It seems that only when it is a motorized road or trail does the "safety" word come into play. Please strike this language from the proposal. Many campgrounds could also fall victim. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

AQUATIC HABITATS

The Proposed Action identifies a forest-wide goal for aquatic habitats as; "Support well distributed harvestable populations of native and desired non native fish species." (pp.13) We support the goal of harvestable, sustainable populations of wild, native species across the forest. Clarification of priority between harvestable populations of non-native and native species must be established, where there is potential conflict between native and non-native species management, the health of the native population must be the priority. Non-natives should not be a management priority in critical habitat areas for native species. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Although sediment is commonly the primary water quality and aquatic habitat concern for land management activities, other water quality parameters such as temperature, nutrients, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, metals and physical aquatic habitat parameters may also be important indicators for determining a water body's current impairment or stress as well as its sensitivity to further impacts. Water quality impacts include habitat effects such as impacts on stream structure and bank/channel stability, streambed substrate including seasonal and spawning habitats, pool/riffle habitat, woody debris, stream bank vegetation, peak flows, channel condition, and riparian habitats. The environmental impact statement (EIS) analysis should disclose whether habitat capability or designated uses are impaired and

show how management direction with the forest plan revision will improve habitat capability and reduce use impairments. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

FUNDING

The Proposed Action suggests restoration as a primary goal. Given the downplay of engaging the timber industry as a partner over large areas of the forests, how do the forest intend to secure adequate direct funding to achieve the magnitude of restoration implied? (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 47)

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

If the proposed management direction could affect threatened or endangered species the final EIS should include the Biological Assessment and the associated USFWS or NMFS Biological Opinion or formal concurrence for the following reasons:
1. NEPA requires public involvement and full disclosure of all issues upon which a decision is to be made;
2. The CEQ Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA strongly encourage the integration of NEPA requirements with other environmental review and consultation requirements so that all such procedures run concurrently rather than consecutively (40 CFR 1500.2? and 1502.25); and
3. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation process can result in the identification of reasonable and prudent alternatives to preclude jeopardy, and mandated reasonable and prudent measures to reduce incidental take. These can affect project implementation. Since the Biological Assessment and EIS must evaluate the potential impacts on listed species, they can jointly assist in analyzing the effectiveness of alternatives and mitigation measures. EPA recommends that the final EIS and Record of Decision not be completed prior to the completion of ESA consultation. If the consultation process is treated as a separate process, the Agencies risk USFWS identification of additional significant impacts, new mitigation measures, or changes to the preferred alternative. If these changes have not been evaluated in the final EIS, a supplement to the EIS would be warranted. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA - 7081)

For the wild lands stretching between Lolo Pass and Lookout Pass, I am especially concerned that the Forest Service....take a comprehensive look at habitat needs for endangered or near-endangered species, not just a project-level look. Without the comprehensive look first, the project-level evaluation may not matter. For example, the Great Burn and other nearby roadless areas are extremely important habitat for such elusive critters as lynx, wolverines, fishers, bulltrout . . . and possibly (some day) grizzly bears. I have become increasingly concerned about our human impacts on animals like these and others and am pretty horrified to think that during our "watch" the time has grown shorter and shorter to protect sufficient habitat for their continued longevity. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 6016)

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is particularly interested in seeing the plan revisions and environmental impact statement (EIS) address certain areas . . . . Project scale environmental impact statements should have an accurate (quantifiable) estimation of the magnitude or significance of impacts and evidence supporting a broad, integrative, interdisciplinary approach to planning process. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

LEVEL OF DETAIL

It says that the revised plans will have less text and more maps . . . . Maps are helpful at times, but somewhere there must be text to explain the map and explain what may and what may not be done in the area bounded by the map. With less text detail and more maps, we render the revised plans meaningless to both the U.S. Forest Service manager looking to them for guidance and the public. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

The proposed action has a similar problem of not giving a complete picture of the needed changes. The lack of detail at this point delays effective comments. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 23)

If you never say what you intend to do or not do, the public will never know. I think this is blatant public deception and should not show up in the final revisions; otherwise I will be forced to sharpen my appeal pencil. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

Can we broaden the definition of noxious weed management to encompass need for restoration of grassland native plant communities? The losses we have sustained of native species in grassland communities would be considered intolerable in forest communities; I think this topic deserves more emphasis in forest plan direction. Again introduce more emphasis under program, budget, and monitoring to assure that the agency actually does something. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

On page eight, the issue of vector control could be profitably introduced. A noxious weed plan in the final forest plans the failed to address vectors would seem to us to be flawed. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 25)

PERMISSIVE VERSUS RESTRICTIVE

We encourage the development of a forest plan that is permissive versus restrictive and fosters local decision making flexibility. (Tourism Promotion Group, LEWISTON, ID – 3778)

The major problem we see is that restrictions to active management options, particularly through self-imposed standards and guides, will not produce a feasible path for the agency to accomplish the objectives we support. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 57)

ROAD DENSITIES

We fully expected to see a statement of need to change road densities in the proposed action, as well as at least some indication that the Forest Service would strive for a downward trend in road densities in this planning cycle. We are very disappointed that road densities were not included in the proposed action. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

It (this proposed action) fails to provide for an adequate system of new roads to facilitate a program of timber harvesting. (Individual, KOOSKIA, ID – 5383)

ROADLESS AND RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS

Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association would like to clarify that use of mechanized equipment such as chainsaws is not prohibited in roadless and/or areas recommend for wilderness. This is unclear in this document. (State Association, BOISE, ID – 4894)

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

The proposed action seems to make the case for a revised plan that is more strategic in nature than specific . . . . There is not evidence or compelling argument that the existing plans were flawed or weak because of too many standards and guidelines. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

The whole idea of removing “must do” or “must not do” standards from forest plans and replacing them with undefined, ambiguous, loosey-goosey goal statements scares me to death. In fact, I’ll say it represents a diabolical way for the Forest Service to make commodity outputs even more important than they are now, and keep it all hidden from the public. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10784)

TRAILS MANAGEMENT

It our understanding that new trails management direction being imposed by the national headquarters requires the establishment of "trail prescriptions" or "trail management objectives" based on forest plan direction. We seriously question whether this document, as proposed, will provide the level of specificity necessary to address that requirement. (Non-Motorized/Non-Mechanized Recreation, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3873)

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

III-14. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should supply adequate and reliable data to support plan revisions.

The plan revision draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) should display adequate, reliable data to support its proposed actions. If this data isn't available, actions to limit or close access could be considered arbitrary and will likely be challenged. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4388)

Revision Topics

III-15. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests have proposed appropriate revision topics.

All five of the revision topics, access management, watersheds, aquatic ecosystem conditions, terrestrial ecosystem conditions, noxious weed management, and special designations and areas are so important. I’m glad to see the Forest Service addressing these concerns for the revised forest plan. (Individual, CLIFF, NM – 3)

We feel that the proposed revision topics (watershed and aquatics, terrestrial ecosystems, noxious weeds, special designations and access) are appropriate and were well selected based on the challenges that the forests will face in the coming decade. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

III-I6. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should add more detail to proposed revision topics.

This (revision topic) list appears to oversimplify the resources of importance on public lands. For example the access topic may deal with roads and trails in terms of motor use but what about recreation management or maintenance as a whole? (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

III-17. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider additional topics for inclusion in plan revisions.

MULTIPLE

Friends of the Clearwater (FOC) recommends 1) economic, 2) recreation, 3) fire management, 4) soils, 5) roads, 6) monitoring and 7) wildlife to be added as revision topics. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Other topics we suggest you consider including in the Analysis of Management Situation are: recreation-other than access, local economic impacts, riparian area management, cultural resources, roads maintenance, special use permits, mining impacts, non market values of resources, timber, fire management, livestock grazing vegetation (other than trees listed species), old growth, global warming impacts, protected budgets for the Clearwater/Nez Perce and roadless area management. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 10859)

AIR QUALITY

Air quality should be high priority as it affects people's health. . . .People in central Idaho with breathing problems should have some assurance that the Forest has a plan that will reduce willful smoke pollution. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

CLIMATE

I suggest a topic focused on climate change and how it might effect proposed actions, e.g. snow pack changes on perennial streams, or timing of snowmelt changes, effects of climate change on tree regeneration following harvest. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 122)

ECONOMICS

Economics deserves to be a revision topic. Understanding the costs and benefits of Forest Service actions is important information in planning for the future. Impacts to local counties need to be disclosed including an analysis of past economic performance. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

As you consider the list of analytical work that you need for the zone forest plan, without an economist on staff it is easy to underestimate the economics insights that the forests will need for project design and organizational efficiency, in addition to optimal strategic planning. (Business, MOSCOW, ID – 10863)

ELK COLLABORATION

I am overjoyed that you chose not to include the recommendations of Sen. Mike Crapo's Elk Collaborative Group. The very idea that this group would dictate the number of acres that should be logged and burned each year to improve elk habitat is ridiculous. . . . There are many users of the forest who do not hunt. For those that do, they must be satisfied with number of elk that already exist on the thousands of acres of good elk habitat on the Nez Perce National Forest. The Nez Perce Forest must drop the idea that their management policy for elk goes any farther than making sure their projects do not degrade elk habitat. Natural fires in the backcountry should be allowed to burn if possible to enhance the elk habitat. Certain people want to augment this fire with logging and road construction. The people in favor of this are much more interested in the timber that would be produced, than any increases in elk. Don't be fooled by these elk arguments when the real intent of the "logging for elk" is to increase the harvest level on the forest. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

HERITAGE RESOURCES

. . . More revision topics should be added, first that of “heritage resources”. In particular the cultural and heritage values of the Lolo Trail corridor have been seriously mismanaged, and require new direction. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3838)

We do not agree that heritage resources can be dealt with outside the central areas of plan revision. These resources are literally unique, cannot be moved around, cannot be dealt with via the dubious notion of "mitigation"', are certainly being subject to growing levels of harm (sometimes even by well-intended land managers), and are the topic of growing public interest and concern. Protecting, in the best and fullest sense of that word, needs to be a central area of concern in the two new plans. Idaho Environmental Council (IEC) believes that to accomplish that goal, the protection of heritage resources should also be a proposed revision topic. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 25)

MINING AND MINERAL RESOURCES

According to the proposed action, the existing plan will be modified to improve direction related to mining laws and the public need for mineral resources. We are not sure why inclusion of these changed would not be identified as revision topics. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

We ask that the planning team elevate monitoring and enforcement to a level equal to the other revision topics for which a significant need for change has been identified. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

NEZ PERCE TRIBE

The Tribe agrees that these five (proposed revision topics) should be at the forefront of revising management strategies in the forest plans. In addition, the Tribe would like the forests to add tribal use and co-management as a sixth primary management revision topic, a topic that deals with the forests’ relationship and management of treaty-reserved resources with the Nez Perce Tribe. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Include a revision topic that deals with tribal consultation and the Forest Service’s trust responsibility to the Nez Perce Tribe. We agree that these issues also need to be fully discusses and analyzed in each of the revision topic. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 10872)

OLD GROWTH

Considering the past controversy of the forests meeting their old growth targets, “old growth retention and management” should also be considered for a revision topic. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 38)

RANGE MANAGEMENT

Riparian areas and stream within livestock allotments are in some of the worst shape that can be found anywhere. How can you say range management is not identified as a revision topic when watersheds and aquatic ecosystem condition is s revision topic? Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

Idaho Department of Fish and Game strongly recommends that range management (grazing management) be included as a revision topic. Inclusion of range management in the plan revision will ensure integration of grazing with other management strategies to achieve the proposed desired future conditions in the plan. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

Grazing practices and forage management is some parts of the Nez Perce National Forest need to be revised. Also the grazing monitoring system needs to be changed to more accurately reflect grazing use in sensitive areas. (Individual, RIGGINS, ID – 1926)

RECREATION

Recreation planning on both forests has been less than adequate and needs to be a revision topic. Providing a big picture of what the forests are trying to accomplish would be helpful. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Recreation on the Clearwater and the Nez Perce National Forests hasn't been unmanaged, but the revisions and future need place a greater emphasis on recreation. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

RESTORATION

Adopt a restoration component that would obliterate roads, replant or allow plant communities to re-establish themselves. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 45)

ROADLESS

We recommend that you add range management and the roadless initiative to your list. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

SOILS

Soils deserve to be a revision topic. The health of soils is the key to long term sustainability. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Timber needs to be higher on the list. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

Timber harvest seems to be down-played when it really needs more focus. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3769)

What I believe is most lacking in the document is any real discussion of timber harvest as a valid tool compared to fire. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 3767)

VISUAL QUALITY

Visual quality (should be a revision topic). Visual quality objectives are not being met. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

Technical and Editorial

III-18. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should reconsider their technical and editorial approach for plan revisions.

DEFINITIONS

Please define "resilient" and map areas presently resilient. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

The terms "restore", "conserve" and "natural" are used throughout the proposed action (PA) and are undefined. It is difficult to understand and comment on the facts and assumptions without knowing what exactly is intended. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

The proposed action contains a number of words that appear to be shorthanded for significant changes in direction and emphasis. Two such words, "conserve" and "restore" are likely to

have great influence on the development and application of standards and guides. What is the meaning, context and management implication when these words are used? (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 47)

Specific omissions - Forest wide multiple use goals and objectives are not addressed. Also the term “multiple-use” is not defined. (Individual, RIGGINS, ID – 1926)

The term “general management direction” for wilderness is somewhat oxymoronic. While no word yet has proven perfectly adequate, stewardship has been accepted by the agency and public as better than management when describing wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

The proposed action states some key areas in the 1987 plan need clarification. It highlights "Where road construction and timber harvest are (are not) allowed". What is the nature of this clarification? What criteria will be used to make the clarification? (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 47)

Under Need for Change: "Decrease the risk of extremely intense wildland fire through management of vegetation and fuels." This suggests lethal fire can everywhere be averted through treatment, and that it is unnatural and always undesirable. Since the science on our ability to avert lethal fire with treatments has lots of uncertainty, and since lethal fire is needed in some ecosystems to sustain species, patterns, and processes, this particular sentence does not do what you want it to in developing a rationale for increased fire use. You could simply modify it to: "Decrease the risk of uncharacteristically intense wildland fire through management of vegetation and fuels." You could add something about decreasing risk of unacceptably intense wildland fire in sensitive areas. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

. . . . No one can tell what "improved management of motorized and non-motorized recreation" means. While some districts have worked to provide and improve recreational access in some areas, we think management as meaning more gates and restrictions. Please define "management". (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

Watersheds and Aquatic Ecosystem Condition - Better define what is meant by “Update goals, objectives, and standards to reflect continued contributions toward the recovery of threatened and endangered species and habitat . . . .” I suggest: “Update goals, objectives, standards, and coordinate monitoring and program and budget priorities to demonstrate commitment and progress toward recovery of threatened and endangered species and habitat . . . .” (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 5441)

p.7 "soil productivity should be maintained or restored." Replace should with "will".
p.10 "The systems are dynamic, resilient and resistant to natural and man-caused disturbances." No always true. Forest systems can be naturally resilient or not.
p.11 the proposed action uses "natural processes and ranges" some places but uses "historic" others. Not consistent. We encourage you to use natural ranges. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

. . . you need a section in the front of your proposed action describing in detail the differences and similarities between objectives, goals, and desired future condition with a few examples. Often times the public has trouble distinguishing between these terms. While you are at it, we need to clearly describe the difference between standard and guides. This is not apparent in our current plans and still causes the public trouble. Improve on the table of contents that exists in current plan. Of prime concern to me is to display the table of contents in such a way that the location of the standards and guides is clear and they are easy to find. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

LEVEL OF DETAILS

We also appreciate efforts to simplify the planning process. Public land management should not be based on management techniques that are incomprehensible to the average forest user. A simplified style should make for more effective public comments and more public involvement. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

Please keep in mind that the forest plan will be held as a legal public document and any ambiguity can be grounds for a lawsuit and legal decision. To eliminate any ambiguity I recommend listing the future conditions to Forest Service land starting in the lands with the least restrictions and moving onto lands with the most restrictions. (Individual, JULIAETTA, ID – 4886)

SUGGESTED PHRASEOLOGY

Heritage Resources

If the planning team persists in not considering historic resource management as a central theme of the two new plans, then the need for precise and clear language to manage such resources becomes even more important. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 25)

The planning team needs to precisely and clearly state the management language for protecting . . . non-renewable heritage resources. (Individual, WEIPPE, ID – 125)

Fire

"Prescribed fire and wildland fire use are the primary disturbances, restoring vegetation and reducing fuel." It would seem that the goal is to use fire when perhaps the goal should be to restore vegetation and reduce fuel by whatever means are effective. This goes along with the perception that the U.S. Forest Service has already made up its mind about these future directions. Also where it says "Timber harvest may occur throughout the area but will be focused along the western edge where existing roads make harvest more economical" indicates that you are placing a restriction on timber harvest before the plan is really even started. Perhaps a better way to phrase this would be "timber harvest may occur throughout the area where it is economically feasible." To limit timber harvest to where you deem it feasible indicates that you have made assumptions about the feasibility of timber harvest in the future. Is that really the intention or is the intention to simply limit timber harvest? (County Government, OROFINO, ID – 5387)

Where it says "restore vegetation and control fuels with timber harvest and prescribed fire" it should say "restore vegetation and control fuels with best management practices such as timber harvest and fire." The former statement draws conclusion as to how to reach the goal. (County Government, OROFINO, ID – 5387)

III-19. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should review the boundaries of the Nez Perce reservation to ensure accuracy.

The plan erroneously states that the Nez Perce Tribe is a sovereign nation. This is erroneous. Not only is it erroneous, but the reservation has been declared diminished by Judge Barry Wood in the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) court. Statements as to the validity of the 1855 treaty are completely false and should be eliminated. (Place-Based Group, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3848)

Plan Adequacy

Plan Analysis/Data/Modeling

III-20. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider additional analyses, data and modeling for plan revisions.

GENERAL

We need a lot better information that what is on hand to revise the plan. We need visual verified counts of off-road vehicle use, horse use, backpacker use, cam trailer use, tent use, hunter use, fisherman use, firewood cutters, logging use, mining use, grazing use. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 4379)

ACCESS MANAGEMENT

A cost/benefit analysis should examine the environmental and economic impacts of closing redundant and/or high-risk roads. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

Access management efforts on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests should include analysis of three landscape metrics: 1) density of roads and motorized routes and other linear features in the transportation network, 2) amount of habitat for a diversity of species within the transportation effects zone, and 3) size of core areas. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

The revision effort should provide information on the types and locations of riparian areas that will be affected, and the effect motorized recreational use on these areas will have on riparian and wetland function and sustainability. The analysis should analyze the impacts of routes that parallel or cross riparian or wetland areas. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

A strong aquatic conservation strategy . . . . must include . . . watershed scale analysis of the geomorphic and ecologic processes operating in specific watersheds . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

We recommend that the revised forest plans address a commitment to comply with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's anti-degradation policy for water quality standards. We recommend that the revised forest plans express a commitment that all project proposals will contain an analysis of how the project will meet the provisions of this policy. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

It is clear from reading the proposed action you consider water quality and fish as the baseline on which to build your direction. . . . It is in fact starting in the middle. Starting in the middle gives the impression of a pre-selected course where multi layered restrictions is invoked as a first step. We are puzzled why the forests would potentially limit management options so early in the process. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

The importance of recreation-based economies and the potential economic boom a restored fishery could have on the rural economies surrounding the forests must be analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

ECONOMICS

Terrestrial Ecosystem Conditions - Need economic analysis of choices between logging and burning. (Individual, KOOSKIA, ID – 5383)

The Forests today "produce" much more than the traditional extracted resources such as minerals and timber. The forests produce outstanding recreation opportunities, access to and existence of wilderness, opportunities that are increasingly limited as more and more of the state and the country are developed. The forests produce clean water for drinking and aquatic species and wildlife habitat. In addition to the ecological benefits, healthy habitat has direct economic benefits to the large recreation based, rural economy, including fishing and river rafting. Idaho's recreational resources are world renowned, and only by maintaining and restoring habitat and water quality will this reputation and these economies be supported. The importance of recreation-based economies and the potential economic boom a restored fishery could have on the rural economies surrounding the Forests must be analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

ENDANGERED SPECIES

The analysis should examine potential effects from recreation to endangered species, such as lynx, bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead and bald eagles. For lynx, the analysis should focus closely on the effects of winter recreation and minimizing or eliminating concentrated snow compaction in potential habitat. The analysis should ensure that the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests will protect critical habitat for steelhead trout, Chinook salmon, bull trout and other threatened species. These aquatic species are sensitive to road density, trail crossings, and stream sedimentation from roads and trails. The analysis should consider critical habitat, denning or nesting sites or migration corridors for sensitive species such as wolverine, goshawk, and westslope cutthroat trout. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

In the National Environmental Policy Act document the Forest Service should provide available data on wildlife including any information on special status species. Available data should include inventory, monitoring, information obtained from experts, and relevant scientific investigations. The NEPA document and associated decision document should demonstrate that the decision will not contribute to the need for any species to become listed as a candidate, or for any candidate species to become listed as threatened or endangered. In addition, we urge the Forest Service to consult with scientists and experts on the wildlife in the area and include their expert opinions in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document and in crafting the decision document. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

If one function of the plan is to provide a roadmap toward recovery of threatened and endangered plants and animals, it should outline the existing condition/status of Endangered species Act (ESA), state sensitive and other species, and must detail (1) how the forest will be managed to protect and recover those species in the future; (2) what the objectives for recovery are; and (3) how will effectiveness be measured. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM, DATABASES, MAPS

The (Fish & Wildlife) Service recommends that the use of geographic information system maps be balanced with the appropriate level of supporting text and tables such that the documents convey information that is detailed enough to ensure consistent interpretation and application of management objectives and practices at the “project level” across the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests . . . . (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

Please produce a map to represent how historic habitat conditions have changed over time.
Please define "resilient" and map areas presently resilient.
Please map the following:

Suited vs. unsuited timber acre changes from 1987 to present.
Roadless areas
Range allotments
Mineral claims
Weeds - present occurrence
Outfitter areas
Areas where wilderness opportunity classes are exceeded or wilderness values are degraded as per monitoring.
Portions of Wilderness which have been monitored

Soil

Soil fertility/"lowered" soil productivity
Landslide prone areas
Areas needing soil and water restoration.
Streams not meet forest plan watershed and fish habitat standards
Presence/absence of a significant ash cap layer in 1987 and today

Wildlife

Habitat for threatened, endangered and sensitive species, both plant and animal.
Ungulate summer, fall, spring and winter ranges?
Condition of ungulate winter range.
Noon-native wildlife and fish range (fish planted in fishless lakes, brook trout, and turkeys)

Fire

"Fuel accumulation in short, moderate, and long fire interval groups has occurred, with the potential result being more acres burning oat higher fire intensities." Where has it happened and where is the potential?
Wildfires since 1987 to present with fire severity, soil loss and hydrophobic soils.
Fire groups map as per U.S. Forest Service study from 1992

Old growth

Old growth by species type.
Field verified old growth and tentatively identified old growth
(Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

The forests need to display available databases on the “historical range of variation” for the various resources, natural processes, and disturbance regimes in the draft environmental impact statement. Within this context, discuss and document the limitations of the data and interpretations. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Region one developed the latest database approved by San Dimas for storage and use of the inventoried data. After the field surveys and data entry the data should be analyzed to determine which stream crossings are a problem and why. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

HABITAT

It is worth noting that much of the remaining high-quality habitat is found primarily in roadless and wilderness areas. The analysis should include an examination of nesting sites and habitat for management indicator bird species. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

The revised plans should consider linkage zone theory and analysis for large carnivores such as grizzly bear, grey wolf, lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), and wolverine (*Gulo gulo*). (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

MODELS

If models are used to describe current conditions and predict changes with various management tools, the data used and assumptions made should be included as well as the inherent uncertainty in the model. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

We are particularly concerned that resource information be collected and displayed in a uniform manner across the region, and that models used to evaluate and predict impacts are updated and also standardized in region 1. Most certainly, if there will be land management area allocations, which is a certainty in planning, the identification system should be uniform in the region. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 6)

We are especially concerned with outdated models. On the Clearwater, the WATBAL model is still used to predict sediment produced by activities. The model was developed based on data collected in the Clearwater in the 1970s then calibrated against roading, logging, and other management activities from data collected in the late 1970s and 1980s. It is no longer valid, as logging and roading techniques and equipment have significantly changed, and hundreds of miles of the most serious sediment producing roads have been closed or obliterated. WATBAL must be updated. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 6)

It is difficult for us to understand how the plan revision can proceed . . . without first updating resource information and models. Will this be done concurrently with the analysis phase; and is there adequate time, money, and personnel to accomplish this need prior to scoping? (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 6)

The Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests must adopt capacity models-both ecologically and socially based-to assist in travel planning as well as monitoring and adaptive management activities. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

The Forest Service must develop a resource and recreation capacity model. It will allow managers to educate the public about impacts of recreation, methods to mitigate impacts, and adaptive management based on triggers built into the models. The science of recreation and resource capacity modeling is not well developed, and, for the most part, inappropriately concentrates on social impacts and not ecological impacts because they are easier to measure. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

OTHER DOCUMENTS

We need to develop and implement an effective conservation strategy that has strong, quantitative management objectives, standards, and monitoring and evaluation criteria in place to ensure success. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

The Environmental Protection Agency is particularly interested in seeing the plan revisions and environmental impact statement address certain areas . . . . Forest plan consistency with the Interior Columbia Basin Strategy . . . . (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

New plans should fully consider and incorporate the recommendations and measures called for in the Clearwater and Salmon Subbasin Plans developed by the Tribe and State for the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council (NWPPC). (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

(We) Suggest the U.S. Forest Service utilize the National Marine Fisheries Service interim abundance and productivity targets (NMFS 2002). They provide adult abundance values for delisting of salmon and steelhead which is in use until the Technical Recovery Team (TRT) revises. U.S. Forest Service should use the Clearwater Basin Subbasin Assessment for resource status and limiting factors. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 10865)

The National Marine Fisheries Service (2000) Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) biological opinion uses an offsite mitigation strategy to improve survival and population growth rate for listed salmon and steelhead. Forest plans need to acknowledge this linkage so that improvements to listed species habitat, estimated to occur in the FCRPS biological opinion, do in fact occur and further short-term detrimental effects due to land management do no occur. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 10865)

Three important topics illustrate the problem (multiple plans). The first is the plethora of separate plans or direction for the wildernesses and the wild and scenic rivers. Fire plans, river plans, and wilderness direction should all be incorporated into one document. It makes more sense to be holistic. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

RESERVATION BOUNDARIES

Correct the references to the 1855 Nez Perce Treaty to reflect a recent court decision that the reservation is diminished. (Agriculture Association, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3854)

ROADS ANALYSIS

"Local" roads, nearly 2700 miles worth, were not analyzed in any detail. Thus the values and risks associated with these roads are not analyzed. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

It appears that unneeded roads are not determined and designated. There is no explicit targeting of unauthorized or unplanned roads for decommissioning and obliteration. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

The road system exceeds the budget allocated to maintaining it. . . . The option of reducing the road system to one the Clearwater National Forest can actually maintain should have been analyzed. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

In general, the Forest Service should address the following deficiencies in the roads rule analysis on the Clearwater: Restoration of ecological processes should be included in the risk/benefit analysis. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

In general, the Forest Service should address the following deficiencies in the roads rule analysis on the Clearwater: Wildlife risk is limited to consideration of elk. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

The Forest Service should address . . . deficiencies in its road analysis on the Clearwater: The door is left open for new roads. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

Access management on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests will have to include an analysis of landscape fragmentation from motorized routes and the effect that variations in scale and type of motorized recreation has on wildlife habitat suitability and connectivity and seasonal variations in habitat use. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

. . . . The roads analysis and the various travel plans are living documents and should be updated with the forest plan. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

One action the Forest Service should take as part of the revision of the Clearwater and Nez Perce forest management plan is a re-evaluation of the adequacy of the Clearwater's analysis done under the Forest Transportation System Management Policy (roads rule). (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

ROADS AND TRAILS

Adequate NEPA analysis includes inventory of all routes within the planning area, on the ground, regardless of origin of route. The inventory undergoes NEPA analysis for disposition of the route - existing, designated, closed. This analysis is particularly important for records of decision where areas move from "open" to "limited to designated" or "limited to existing" roads and trails. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 10861)

RESTORATION

In the draft plan, please describe in detail the methods used to assess restoration potential, including providing all data used in that assessment. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

TIMBER POLICY

The Boise, Payette and Sawtooth National Forests are now wrestling with their failure to consider how their own timber policies would reduce private infrastructure and feed back to undermine their own ecosystem management potential. The southwest Idaho ecogroup reports are lengthy, so it might be sufficient to review the attached the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and final environmental impact statement (FEIS) summaries. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests have already started down the same path, but your zone is still in a better position to assess this problem. There is still time to make forest planning dynamically better integrated with complementary private support sectors. You may want to consider similar analyses for your zone. (Business, MOSCOW, ID - 10863)

ROADLESS

The revision process should include a rigorous evaluation on the importance of protecting roadless areas in the Clearwater River basin. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784

VEGETATION

In the absence of other more detailed field plot driven spatial inventories, using GAP analysis data (available online at ftp://ftp.gap.uidaho.edu/rpoducts/idaho/gis/) as a basis for describing existing vegetation would be more logical choice. A discussion about the differences between the existing and potential vegetation conditions is essential for the public to understand the implications of the proposed forest plan revisions. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

We suggest the region set uniform utilization for timber management, as well as a standard for measuring and displaying timber data and economic analysis. In the original forest plan process there was no uniformity and this caused problems we still live with today. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 6)

Cumulative Effects

III-21. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure adequate assessment and monitoring of cumulative effects.

The revised forest plans should . . . institute a process of evaluating and quantifying indirect and cumulative effects of management activities on forest ecosystems. This analysis should extend beyond geographic area boundaries to effectively determine and disclose cumulative and indirect effects of projects on the environment. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

. . . . There are methods to address some [cumulative effects analysis] defects. For instance, Menny et al. (1996) provided methods to address cumulative impacts from activities on steeper slopes and in closer proximity to streams. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

WATERSHEDS

. . . The Tribe urges the forests to develop management direction and tools to decision makers in the new forest plans that provide for meaningful analysis, management, and monitoring of cumulative effects to entire watersheds. At a minimum, the management direction should require a thorough analysis of past, present, ongoing, and future private, state, and federal actions, and use that analysis as a basis for protecting or restoring watersheds at the system-wide geographic areas described above. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Monitoring and Inventory

III-22. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop a comprehensive forest plan monitoring program.

ACCOUNTABILITY

"Accountability" should be added to the list of primary parts of the proposed action. Accountability is the flip side of monitoring. The Forests must specify how they will use monitoring to insure accountability. The current plans have done a poor job of monitoring and insuring accountability. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

The (Fish & Wildlife) Service strongly recommends the revised plans incorporate a rigorous monitoring strategy that includes implementation, effectiveness, and validation components and requirements. The strategy should also incorporate adaptive management principles that allow for modifications to management direction based on monitoring results. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

The Tribe urges the forest to analyze and prescribe an aggressive monitoring regime to ground-truth project design, modeled results, and effectiveness of best management practices (BMPs), and mitigation measures. . . . The Tribe urges the forests to display a commitment to change . . . by requiring an aggressive monitoring regime that provides factual feedback for adaptive management. A strong monitoring program should be characterized by early warning parameters and protocols that are linked to quantitative, numeric standards for water quality and fisheries. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

The monitoring plan should address the types of surveys, parameters to be monitored, indicator species, budget, procedures for using data or results in plan implementation, and availability of results to interested and affected groups. The monitoring program should include discussion of how the three types of monitoring (implementation, effectiveness and validation monitoring) are incorporated into the Forest's adaptive management program. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

ARCHAEOLOGY

The new forest plans should direct the Forest Service to do an extensive archaeological complete inventory of all historical trail treads as directed by Dale Bosworth (see appendix). The chief concern is the locating and retention of the historic trail system. The present policy of degrading the historical features through logging, road building and trail building has to stop. (Individual, WEIPPE, ID – 125)

BASELINE DATA

The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that the US Forest Service provide a comprehensive assessment of baseline data available in the draft EIS. This should include areas of data quality, data gaps, implications of data gaps on conclusions drawn, and how the data will be collected in the future to support management decisions. All information displayed in map format should also be explained so that the public will understand where sufficient data is available to support management approaches and where data is lacking to make sound management decision. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

COMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER MONITORING EFFORTS

Each user group monitors themselves and their effect on the forest while the Forest Service monitors over all progress. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 65)

. . . . Revised management plans need to be compatible with the monitoring procedures and efforts identified by the Interagency Implementation Team (IIT) biological opinion efforts, ongoing efforts of the Northwest Power Planning Council, and state water quality efforts . . . . (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

Forest plan monitoring should be done internally by the Forest Service and by an unbiased third party. All decisions should be made by a fair system of checks and balances not one where all decisions are made just by one entity. This system would allow for more well-rounded multiple use and open areas for everyone to enjoy. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 1923)

The U.S. Forest Service monitoring and evaluation plan needs to be coordinated and integrated with the draft federal monitoring and evaluation plan (Jordan et al. 2003) and with the Collaborative system wide Monitoring and Evaluation Plan being developed by (Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority) CBFWA.

1. Historical fish distribution maps, conducted as part of the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA), should be provided to the U.S. Forest Service and used to validate table 7.
2..The limiting factors analysis from the subbasin assessment should be used and linked to the ecosystem condition on whatever hydrologic unit code (HUC) level is used for the analysis.
3. Does the U.S. Forest Service believe it is useful to plan for listed species habitat management separate from species abundance? Adult abundance is one of the priority measures and/or criteria that prioritize where (and how) we manage across the landscape.
4. Salmon and steelhead populations are functionally managed on a tributary basis. Is a HUC 6 consistent with that approach?

5. The current rating system of present strong, present depressed, etc. would benefit from discussion with managers. Currently at least the present strong category, if not more, is not useful in its present from. The 500 adults to 5,000 individuals need explanation. Which figure keys the analysis? Is the 5,000 individuals an adult or juvenile measure? What size unit is evaluated-tributary, drainage or exactly what? Is the abundance value an annual or generational value? A 500 adult salmon abundance is not viewed as representing a strong population, and may not meet delisting criteria. A value of 5,000 individuals, if juveniles, raises question as to life stage at measurement (parr/premolt/smolt), consistency in application within the between streams, and for an anadromous population is not large. The adult abundance value for an anadromous population is highly preferred.
6. Data in Table 7 needs to be discussed in detail and ground truthed. The 15 populations of steelhead rated as strong leaps out at the reviewer. What streams are these, since they represent listed steelhead, and how were they rated? Managers think in terms of adult abundance for population viability, and delisting is currently identified in terms of number of adults (not juveniles). There is substantial question on genetic introgression of rainbow trout with westlope cutthroat. Are the strong populations isolated from this influence or are they assumed to represent pure cutthroat populations. The columns of present depressed, historically absent, and extirpated also need management verification. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 10865)

CONNECTIONS

. . . . In the soil and Water section of the FY2003 monitoring plan there is some discussion of the monitoring parameter results but no tie back to the Forest Plan or its implementation. There needs to be well thought out connections between the goals, objectives, sidebars, project implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Otherwise we end up not knowing what is working and what is not. Too often we collect all this data but don't know what worked and what didn't. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

FUNDING

. . . Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) supports linking the approval of projects to availability of funding for conducting necessary monitoring and evaluation. The environmental impact statement should demonstrate how future decisions will affect monitoring and evaluation if financial commitments to these programs or the operating budget are reduced. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

I am concerned that the Forest Service has insufficient funds or directives to provide monitoring and enforcement for any action you take. I would welcome innovative, effective new ideas in this area of concern. As you know, the Great Burn Study Group has offered assistance which I understand has been well-received and useful. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 6016)

HERBICIDES

To minimize any unintended effects of herbicides, the Forest Service must monitor the effects of weed treatments on both noxious weeds and non-target species on site-specific and landscape levels. The Forest Service should research sub-lethal effects of fish from herbicides such as altered metabolism, changes in reproductive behavior or egg production, fertilization, or hatching, developmental aberrations, reduced ability to adjust to environmental gradients, and increased susceptibility to disease or predation. The Forest Service should examine the effects of any additives, mixing agents, surfactants, inert ingredients, carriers, wetting agents, and emulsifying agents. The Forest Service's monitoring should investigate the difference in effectiveness to different combinations and applications

of herbicides. Levels of detection should be based on LC (10) not LC (20) for anadromous fishes (NMFS Endangered Species Act Formal Section 7 Consultation for Integrated Noxious Weed Management Program for Vale District, May 2, 2003). (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

NOISE

Suggest that if you do set aside areas for quiet recreation, that you consider adopting some of the sound monitoring protocols and metrics developed by the National Park Service and FAA in managing airplane over flights. Such approaches can be easily adapted to monitor motor noise from OHV and snowmobiles. (Business, SANTA FE, NM – 5359)

OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

Page 45, Item 2a: This section sets the limits on impacts of off–road vehicle use but does not specify how to measure "visual" damage and other problems listed. Instead, it refers to a district and forest interdisciplinary (ID) team that leads the off-road vehicle monitoring plan. Unfortunately, this method of off-road vehicle monitoring will be subjective to the whims of the members of the interdisciplinary team without any public involvement. (Individual, JULIAETTA, ID – 4886)

OLD GROWTH

Whatever the definition (of old growth), wildlife population trend monitoring is critical to understand impacts on a number of species. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Monitoring should include surveys, public hearings and comments from agencies and individuals throughout the implementation process. Feedback helps determine if future change is needed. (City Government, OROFINO, ID – 3281)

. . . "Both national forests clearly articulate how they use public input." So far it is unclear how you will use public input. Given the 1987 Forest Plans as an example, public comments were largely ignored. Less than 14 percent of the substantive letter comments on the forest plan for the Clearwater National Forest supported increased logging but the plan increased the allowable sale quantity (ASQ) above past levels. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

RECREATION

Monitoring: There is no mention of monitoring forest system usage for public recreation, and the economic impact of recreation and tourism. What I propose is a free registration system that tracks the public usage by number of persons, type of usage, and area of usage. The system could be set up on a website that would collect information about number of people, area, time of visit, type of recreation being done during the visit, and then allow the applicant to print out a permit. A similar registration could be done with an automated phone system that would ask questions and collect the data and then give the user a permit number that can be checked as required. This will provide visitor usage information that can be used to make informed recreation management decision rather than perceived usage. This information could be used to manage road and trail maintenance, apply for grants for improvements to the road and trail systems, and substantiate legitimate user conflicts. (Individual, JULIAETTA, ID – 4886)

Talk to local snowmobile interest groups and find common ground. Go to parking areas and ask winter recreationists their personal feelings. Communication and keeping the public informed on revision progress. (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT – 3891

SCALE

. . . . Monitoring should be conducted on multiple scales both temporally and spatially. Near term, intermediate, and long term monitoring and assessment should occur at the stream arch, subbasin, basin, and regional levels. Management activities, such as timber harvests or grazing allotments, also should be monitored and assessed at these progressive scales, both individually and collectively. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

Two elements regarding monitoring that we would like to see incorporated into the forest plan are that (1) appropriate monitoring is made a required component of every management action or project, and (2) that monitoring is designed to evaluate management actions over the long term and is not limited to the lifetime of a project. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

TIMELINESS

The 2 plus year delay in releasing monitoring plans needs to be addressed. Such a delay results in the released and digestion of stale data that likely does not play the role that it should. Instead, monitoring data should be released in a more timely manner. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

SUSTAINABILITY

A five-year review of all monitoring is necessary to gauge the effectiveness of the monitoring program. Sustainability needs to be monitored yearly. Measurable gauges to monitor sustainability need to be developed. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

WATERSHED AND AQUATIC

Monitoring of native salmonids and other aquatic species set as management indicator species (MIS) are required and should be incorporated in the monitoring and evaluation section of the forest plan. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

Improve watershed/aquatic monitoring and assessment programs to identify impacts, detect problems, measure restoration success, and make changes to management based on monitoring (adaptive management), and address coordination efforts and budget needs for monitoring. Identify how monitoring will improve from the current plan. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

There should be information in the monitoring section of the draft environmental impact statement concerning funding issues relating to water quality monitoring, particularly in the areas where there are impaired stream segments on both forests. (Preservation/Conservation, COEUR D ALENE, ID – 3765)

It is impossible to capture the natural variability and sensitivity of an ecosystem based on existing road density, slope, landform, and geology. We would be remiss as stewards of the land to pretend that this proposed analysis produces a credible evaluation of management impacts to aquatic condition. Evaluate management activities directly; using real, quantifiable data taking into account the existing habitat condition, adjacent watershed condition, and cumulative impacts of all management activity in the watershed and larger drainage. Watershed monitoring is not hard, it just requires agency commitment. This kind of monitoring not only is the only way to produce a scientifically credible analysis, but it is

the only way to truly assess impacts and adjust management actions accordingly. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 10870)

Perhaps the failure to evaluate cumulative effects lies in the extent of monitoring implementation. Recommend reviewing original design and intent of monitoring. The revised forest plan should require renewed attention to watershed monitoring. Managers should be required to base assessments of watershed condition from actual data rather than models. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 10870)

The numeric standards for fish/water quality have served the resource well, being a way to protect the aquatic/fisheries resource while still allowing some logging and road activity. Some numeric standard is needed, and not just a motherhood statement about doing good for the resource. “Restore” and “conserve” are good for starters, but don't help the folks at the project level. There is some fine tuning that is needed in the present Appendix K (Clearwater National Forest), to reflect some of the monitoring information. Within the lifetime of the new plan, there may be a change in the sediment/water yield modeling that is available, so numbers need to allow that kind of flexibility. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

The fisheries monitoring data found in the annual monitoring report is great data for starting to assessing viability and recovery. Population structure and population response should be described within the Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESU) to determine a reliable and quantitatively informed assessment of viability and recovery. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

Develop and identify the quantitative criteria and methodology for sustaining the health and quality of watersheds and fisheries, within and outside of wilderness from human impacts. Define the monitoring and management actions required to deal with identified impacts. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4381)

This need to assume that each population loss of native salmonids would constitute an irreversible loss of the species' viability and ability to recover is true unless a model were developed and applied to quantify the status of individual breeding populations, and then, based on their status, location connectivity, genetic integrity, and other factors, predict their contribution to maintaining or restoring the future spatial distribution and le history diversity of the species or ESU within the planning area. Such a model would then have to make spatially explicit and testable predictions about the contribution of each population to the status and future recovery potential of the species or ESU within the planning area, and then establish through such an analysis that certain populations are expendable because they are spatially redundant, or that they are diminished numerically or compromised genetically beyond any capability of local recovery, and hence contribute in only a severely limited way to viability and future recovery of the overall ESU. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

WILDERNESS

Monitoring needs to be adopted and implemented to ensure preservation of wilderness character. Peter Landres is developing some ideas on monitoring wilderness character that should be incorporated. Without this vital component, an enduring resource of wilderness is impossible. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

III-23. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should conduct road and trail inventories.

Each road and trail should be inventoried and inventories should be provided across geographical planning areas determine what affects each alternative will have on the human environment. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

With little real data on road or trail use and other quantifiable data on present use, it is hard to gauge future needs. A clear inventory of available opportunities needs to be compared with visitor needs. The official Forest Service visitor survey completed for the CNF and the NPNF . . . should be used to guide future recreation development. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Standards and Guidelines

III-24. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should craft revision plans that include a variety of standards and guidelines.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

The major problem we see is that restrictions to active management options, particularly through self-imposed standards and guides, will not produce a feasible path for the agency to accomplish the objectives we support. You simply must develop a plan that is implementable in a timely fashion, and that will support accomplishment of your long-term objective at minimum risk. (Business, KAMIAH, ID – 57)

1) I know the team will not like this, but one thing that was never included in either existing plan was some direction on a process to be used to make resource tradeoffs. It would be very easy for you to simply say that the line officer will do this and pursue it no more. This will not do.
2) Even the Government Accountability Office (GAO) identified the Forest Service's inability to resolve natural resource conflicts or make choices among competing uses on public lands as a major problem in their decision-making process.
3) All during my U.S. Forest Service career, I saw many proposed projects (usually commodity output projects-logging, mining, grazing etc.) that were estimated to result in moderate to large adverse ecological effects to one or more natural resources in the area. Yet, to my horror, the project was implemented anyway.
4) Of course, my hopes would be that this tradeoff determination process would always favor natural restoration, rather than having humans mucking around. In the vast majority of cases, so-called human restoration ends up making the ecological situation worse than before the "restoration" project started.
5) This is the problem with leaving tradeoffs to the line officer with no guidance. There are many line officers and they all have a different set of land values. With some natural resource resolution guidance in the plans, the public would be at the mercy of line officers such as one discussed above that allowed a harmful timber sale to proceed. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

It is critical that the forest plan reflects the economic impacts, through commodity receipt sustainability, which supports major infrastructure maintenance that is the backbone to economic growth and diversification. (Place-Based Group, OROFINO, ID – 3282)

The area of access management is a critical component for local economic development effort. Much has changed in the last seventeen years in the area of off-road vehicles. There is an enormous amount of public demand for increased recreational activities on public lands. We must find ways to sustain, conserve and restore our forest resources while meeting the demands of changing times. It is imperative that any changes in the forest plan include provisions for a balanced approach to recreational activities. (City Government, OROFINO, ID – 3281)

FIRE

In developing a forest plan that is also a fire plan, it is important that the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests build in sufficient flexibility that other resource objectives do not compromise the fire management plan. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

HERITAGE RESOURCES

The revised plan should address how the Forest Service will meet Sec 800.10 of Section 106 Regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act which requires: ". . . that the agency official to the maximum extent possible undertake such planning an actions as may be necessary to minimize harm to any National Historic Landmark that may be directly and adversely affected by an undertaking." (Individual, WEIPPE, ID – 125)

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We request that standards be included in the plan that ensure that management actions are conducted in such a way that their efficacy in achieving plan objectives is monitored and evaluated and the results of evaluations fed back to inform subsequent management. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

PLANT COMMUNITIES AND NOXIOUS WEEDS

Adopt standards and practices that do not place native plant communities at risk. Adopt standards that minimize activities that contribute to the spread of noxious weeds. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM

The forest plan should specify that recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) should be used only as an inventory for use in subsequent implementation planning. The Forest Service must clearly disclose how recreation opportunity spectrum will be utilized both in the revised forest plan and in subsequent implementation plans. The Forest Service must disclose how any broad strategic decisions made in the revised forest plan related to recreation opportunity spectrum will impact recreation opportunities. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

Proper education programs and service programs must be an important focus of the travel plan. This emphasis should be a key part to avoiding social user conflicts by providing education to public lands visitors so they utilize the lands suitable for their mode of recreation. For instance, in order to reduce social conflict, the plan should provide for the education of pedestrian and equestrian users about the availability of areas that meet their recreation opportunity setting both in the forest as well as on adjacent public lands or National Parks. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

International Mountain Bicycling Association believes the following policies should generally apply on national forest lands. When user conflict occurs, agency managers should employ or select strategies that resolve the problem while preserving high quality experiences. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4387)

ROADS, TRAILS, MOTORIZED AND NON-MOTORIZED USES

Motor vehicles must be required to stay on existing, open roads and a forest-wide standard should be adopted stating as much. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 3870)

I request a forest wide standard to protect and manage remaining forest trails for traditional non-motorized uses. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 1146

SPECIES PROTECTION

. . . . The revised plans need to provide specific goals, and measurable objectives and standards that in combination with appropriate geographic area delineations ensure consistent management across the Forests, while allowing managers some flexibility to choose management tools appropriately for site-specific projects. Such level of specificity leading to consistently applied and predictable forest management over the planning horizon is also necessary for the (Fish and Wildlife) Service to be able to analyze impacts to listed species and complete consultation on the environmental impact statement (EIS) selected alternative and revised forest plans. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

Rigorous standards are needed for all existing water developments in order to sustain adequate habitat for viable populations of aquatic species downstream. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Land resource management plans should adopt standards for salmonid habitat that are conducive to salmonid survival, if met, and require reduced levels of land-disturbance in watersheds where they are not met. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

TIMBER

I would like very much to also see the following statement inserted in the revised plans: “There will be no 'timber purpose' sales prepared and offered, unless the Forest Service can provide documentation in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document showing that there is a shortage or wood-derived retail product raw materials in the United States.” (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS

The identification of value-added products continues to grow and be considered more seriously by prospective entrepreneurs in Clearwater County. Resources currently considered for processing include: huckleberries; mushrooms, beargrass; specialty cut wood products and firewood. Micro-enterprises are developing with these resources being identified as an asset from which to build a new production sector in the local economy. We encourage the forest to identify areas and programmatic direction that consider extraction of these non-traditional resources at commercial scales. (Place-Based Group, OROFINO, ID – 3282)

WATERSHED AND AQUATIC

Road construction, mining, and logging with protected riparian area (RA) widths should be prohibited. These activities cause long term damage to riparian areas and stream conditions. Grazing in riparian areas should be tightly controlled and contingent on meeting habitat and riparian standards. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

The Analysis of the management Situation states that continuing current forest plan direction will result in a slow improvement trend for some watersheds, and others will remain in a degraded state. This is unacceptable. All change to the Aquatic Conservation Strategy should emphasis accelerating improvement trends in priority watersheds, and improving the water quality and aquatic habitat characteristics of all watersheds. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Where the forests have authority over the source watersheds of springs that feed these streams, we support efforts to reduce pollutants to acceptable levels. Planned activities that could further pollute listed waterways should be precluded, or at least delayed until water quality indicators rebound. Such clear direction is needed in the forest plans. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

WILDERNESS AND ROADLESS

I am writing you to urge you to adopt new standards in your forest plans that will reserve, protect and conserve wilderness and roadless characteristics in your respective forest. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 45)

The "no motorized use" standard should be implemented in the forest plan for roadless areas and proposed wilderness. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 3870)

Forest Plan Amendments

III-25. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should amend the current forest plan.

Given that it will be 2008, earliest, that the plan can be implemented on the ground, it is extremely important that the current plan is amended in key areas in an attempt to keep the plan functional. Timely amendments will also make the revision process easier. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 6)

Over the last several years I have seen the Nez Perce Forest abuse the project-level forest plan amendment process. This must Stop! Whenever I saw a project-level forest plan amendment, it was always to allow more timber to be removed from the forest, or more logging access road to be built. Folks, the forest plan is a contract with the public. The plan must not be amended every time a standard (designed to protect other resources) becomes an obstacle to a timber sale or constrains the volume. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

Desired Conditions

III-26. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider many issues when developing desired future conditions for forest plans.

GENERAL

The theme of the revised plans must assume that the primary activity on Forest Service - managed land is: natural resource conservation, natural resource preservation, and recreation (that is not harmful to the resource). (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

The Clearwater Nez Perce Forest Plan will be a solid restoration plan if it restores processes, such as fire, not just structure, it is based on an economics that recognizes ecological costs and benefits not jut market values, and it contributes to the long term viability of communities with a culture of environmental sustainability. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

ACCESS MANAGEMENT

. . . . Access management strategies should outline goals and objectives for distribution of motorized and non motorized access to Forest lands by both recreational and commercial users. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

. . . . Back-Country Horsemen of North Central Idaho requests that the following statement be included in "Proposed Forest-wide Desired Future Conditions:" All trails will continue to be managed to provide for existing, customary and traditional uses unless changes in the established type or level of use are established through an appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. (Non-Motorized/Non-Mechanized Recreation, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3873)

Blue Ribbon Coalition recommends the following approach to the route designation process. Adequate National Environmental Policy Act analysis includes inventory of all routes within the planning area, on the ground, regardless of origin or route. . . . The disposition of the inventoried routes culminates in a map, installation of signs and information kiosks in the area, public notice of travel restrictions, information and education efforts, and enforcement of the travel restrictions. . . . Pursuant to a tiered off-highway vehicle management plan (site specific planning), roads and trails would be analyzed to evaluate and identify opportunities for trail or road construction and/or improvement, or specific areas where intensive off-highway vehicle use may be appropriate . . . . (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

Social expectations for desired future conditions indicate the need to retain the last remaining terrain of its type for dispersed motorized winter recreation. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 27)

CURRENT CONDITIONS AND PROPOSED ACTIONS

We found it particularly difficult to weigh the values or effects of proposed desired future condition or goals without (1) at least a partial description of the current conditions to indicate whether or how extensively current management must be changed to reach new desired conditions and goals, and (2) without at least some hints about what actions the Forest Service anticipates taking to achieve the desired conditions. Actions are the very core of an effective plan. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

HABITAT

Great Burn Study Group supports the desired future condition of restoring and maintaining wildlife habitat and connectivity and security. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

LEVEL OF ANALYSIS

. . . . We suggest the utilization of a mid-scale level analysis such as subbasin assessment or watershed analysis to guide establishment of desired future conditions for the revised plans. . . . We also suggest the revised plans include a framework for mid-scale analysis that will be consistently applied to provide broader landscape-level information and guidance to planners and managers when implementing the plans. Such information will also assist the (Fish and Wildlife) Service in the Section 7 consultation process for future actions implemented under the revised plans. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

LISTED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES

We suggest the concepts of conservation and recovery of listed and candidate species and restoration of their habitats be prioritized in setting desired future conditions, goals, objectives and standards. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

LOCAL ECONOMY

Local lumber processing facilities provide a significant amount of opportunity for employment in this region. Although the levels have declined, lumber processing is still a viable business venture and expansion into more value-added products is an opportunity, but the level of resource available for lands in the region needs to become stabilized and sustainable. (Place-Based Group, OROFINO, ID – 3282)

MINING

. . . Work with prospectors; provide advice on places to "dredge" that will be beneficial to habitat. And open things up for prospectors using a dredge size up to 4 inches, after that a more extensive plan of operation and approval process would be necessary. The bottom line is closing the area and not being willing to negotiate is not good management. (Individual, EAGLE, ID – 5211)

We believe that the desired condition statement (and consequently the goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines) for mineral and geology resources should reflect the changing attitudes toward mining by emphasizing ecosystem protection and restoration. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

OLD GROWTH

. . . . We suggest the revised plans include an old growth habitat goal to provide for maintenance and restoration of this terrestrial ecosystem component. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

"RATE OF CHANGE" FOR RESOURCE OUTPUTS

. . . . The forests appear to have decided not to have targets for most resource outputs that were included in the last plan. We believe the "rate of change" implies there is progress toward a well-defined goal from a well, defined beginning. This leads us to conclude that the forests must include some units of measure or targets for resources other than simply timber harvest. . . . We expect the new forest plan to address the concept that there is a "rate of change" as we move toward the desired future condition that can be well documented. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS

Where it says "Roadless character and wilderness resources are evident in the Storm Creek area recommended to addition to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness," I have to wonder if this suggests that you have already determined that this will be recommended for wilderness after the review. Has the review been completed and are the conclusions already drawn? If not, then who desires this condition? (County Government, OROFINO, ID – 5387)

RECREATION

Recreation, whether it is guided or non-guided, should be recognized in all 27 geographic area descriptions of desired future conditions through terms consistent with the recreation opportunity spectrum. (State Association, BOISE, ID – 4894)

TRUST RESPONSIBILITY

. . . . Numeric standards are a necessary mechanism for public and tribal accountability to ensure that the desired future conditions for water quality and fisheries are being met, and that the Forest Service is living up to its trust responsibility to protect, restore, and enhance treaty-reserved resources and their habitats. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

VEGETATION

. . . . If ecological principles will in fact drive management actions, you must be true to them and define the proper point of departure. We believe vegetation is the proper departure point. We recommend you use vegetation as the starting point, define desired conditions and outcomes first, develop strategies to achieve results, and then formulate necessary restrictions. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

WATER QUALITY

. . . Water Quality Standards (WQS) are the primary mechanism used to achieve Clean Water Act goals . . . . The land and resource management plan's revision goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines should protect water quality to maintain and/or attain compliance with Idaho WQS (Idaho WQS are found in the Idaho Administration Code IDAPA 58.01.02). (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

Goals

III-27. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider many goals for forest plan revisions.

GENERAL

We encourage the Forest Service to keep the following goals in mind during forest plan revision: 1) Establish resource protection as the overarching forest plan revision priority; 2) Use science-based decision-making; 3) Maintain the wild character of the land; 4) Streamline the travel system; 5) Utilize multi-party monitoring efforts (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 5372)

ACCESS MANAGEMENT

I would improve desired future conditions and goals by making the new proposal friendlier to maintaining current motorized access and making a genuine effort by the Forest Service to work more closely with groups like Public Land Access Year-round (PLAY), Clearwater Resource Coalition, and other local groups who are directly affected by decreasing motorized use. This way landscapes and watersheds can be achieved and multiple-use objectives can be maintained. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 1923)

Goal: "Provide a cross-section of access opportunities that will allow for potential fire fighting, search and rescue, emergency medical requirements, property owner access, fuel wood retrieval and conservation projects." (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

AQUATIC CONSERVATION

It seems a more appropriate goal should be to update other resource objectives to be consistent with an aquatic conservation strategy that protects the few strongholds left for native species and restores other watersheds. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

ELK COLLABORATION

The proposed action makes no mention of recent agreements reached in the elk collaboration effort facilitated by Senator Crapo. The essence of this effort should be noted and included as an overall goal in the draft plan and highlighted in the applicable geographic areas. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

We ask that you include the recommendations for active management goals presented by the Crapo Elk Collaboration. These targets are the minimum necessary to provide sufficient habitat to recover elk populations in the Clearwater Basin. (Business, LEWISTON, ID – 103)

ECONOMIC OUTPUTS

Tourism and recreation need to be listed as an economic output of the national forest system lands along with timber production, grazing, and mining. Currently, forest lands are used by guides and outfitters who use the lands to make a living. By restricting future public access to only non-motorized uses prevents some form of guides and outfitters from providing for a motorized experience, and hence have a negative economic impact. (Individual, JULIAETTA, ID – 4886)

Forest plan revision must keep its focus first and foremost on the sustainability of the ecosystems being considered, and, indeed, on the sustainability of the ecosystems beyond its boundaries upon which it has an impact. Because timber production on Forest Service lands provides a relatively small percentage of marketable timber while conversely causing substantial ecosystem damage, the production of timber should not be a primary Forest Service goal. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 10862)

GAME ANIMALS

One goal that should be included is to continue to provide historic levels of game animals through habitat management and cooperation with Idaho Fish and Game Department, sportsman's groups and affected individuals. We cannot understand why something of this importance is not listed in the goals, especially given the financial contributions of hunters to game management and the local economy. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

HABITAT

The U.S. Forest Service needs quantifiable habitat management goals and objectives so that there is clarity in measuring them, and accountability when they are obtained. Forest plan should identify habitat management goals and objectives that address the limiting factors identified in the subbasin assessment. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 10865)

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Consider adding a goal to provide a primitive recreation experience for mountain bikers in roadless areas and a family recreation experience for mountain bikers closer to main roads to help encourage younger generations to enjoy nature. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4387)

SNOWMOBILING

. . . . Standards should be established to provide for a minimum of one meaningful single track motorized (to include mechanized) recreational opportunity per ranger district (as defined by the user per recreation opportunity spectrum definition) and no net loss of meaningful snowmobiling opportunities as currently recognized. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 27)

TRUST RESPONSIBILITY

There is a great need for the new forest plans to integrate the various resource management goals, e.g., vegetation management, in a manner that achieves watershed conservation and restoration while also meeting Forest Service commitments under the Endangered Species Act, as well as fulfilling its trust responsibility to the Nez Perce Tribe to protect, restore, and enhance treaty reserved resources and their habitats. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

USER CONFLICTS

Under Cultural, Social and Economic Values, Access Management: Remove the statement about minimizing conflicts among users. All a group has to do to create conflict, is pointedly go out and document the conflict that they have created with another user group. Then it is reported to the agency with little or no verification. Minimizing the conflict will always mean closing the area of concern to the motorized user, not the group creating the conflict. You should simply say you will provide for current levels of motorized and non-motorized use and look for new opportunities as the need arises. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER POTENTIAL DESIGNATION

Goals statements for several of the geographic areas indicate the desire to conserve the existing values in a number of watersheds that have been determined to be eligible for addition to the wild and scenic rivers system (e.g., Cayuse Creek, Kelly Creek, North Fork Clearwater, et.al.). We fully support this proposal and would recommend restatement of this as a forest-wide goal for management of special watersheds. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

WILDERNESS – EXISTING OR PROPOSED

Under "Proposed Forest-wide Goals" the planning team states that "Wilderness values and wilderness-dependent recreational experiences are maintained in those inventoried roadless areas recommended for addition to the national wilderness preservation system (motorized and mechanical transportation prohibited)." One could infer from that goal that a totally "non-motorized" experience is intended which would severely constrain the agency's ability to maintain the existing trails transportation system by efficient, motorized means. This would impose an increased and inappropriate additional cost and ultimately resulting fewer miles of trails being maintained or reconstructed. This goal exceeds the requirement to manage proposed wilderness areas in a manner that does not preclude their potential designation. . . . Until and unless the areas are designated wilderness by law, or the 'effects' of such change in management be specifically analyzed in this or another appropriate document, we request that the goal be clarified to read that the areas will be managed in such a manner that will not preclude their future designation as wilderness, and reference to their being managed to accommodate "wilderness values" be eliminated. (Non-Motorized/Non-Mechanized Recreation, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3873)

"Proposed Goals: ... Provide outstanding recreational activities and experiences via wilderness resources." This is heavily biased towards non-motorized recreation and makes the area sound as if it were a recreational paradise. Since wilderness precludes any motorized access and many other recreational activities including bicycling and open campfires, outstanding recreational activities for motorized and other uses prohibited by wilderness are not included in this region. This statement needs to be changed to "outstanding non-motorized recreational activities" or "Provide wilderness recreational activities and experiences as allowed by law." (Individual, JULIAETTA, ID – 4886)

"Designated and recommended wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The unique character of each recommended area is preserved until Congress acts on the recommendation of the Forest Service." The . . . statement is obviously biased against motorized recreation and access. The U.S. Forest Service has admitted in this statement that it has already created an artificial wilderness and will continue to maintain the lands as such until it is made into official wilderness by designation by Congress. By this statement, the Forest Service is asking the Congress to be the deciding factor in managing its lands, along with allowing for a lawsuit. Areas designated roadless that are not recommended for addition to the wilderness preservation system must remain open to motorized access and use. (Individual, JULIAETTA, ID – 4886)

. . . nothing in the Wilderness Act nor the Congressional record leading up to passage of the bill suggests that commercial outfitting is inconsistent with realizing a high degree of solitude . . . . We . . . suspect that some agency personnel and wilderness activists have strong personal opinions regarding the propriety of pack and saddle stock in wilderness related "experience, resources, values, or character." . . . We request that these terms be eliminated from the goals of all areas that are currently not designated wilderness by law and be replaced with appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) related terms such as primitive, semi-primitive or natural appearing. (Non-Motorized/Non-Mechanized Recreation, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3873)

III-28. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider whether some goals listed in the proposed action are in fact conclusions.

"Use fire to develop and maintain diverse forest structure (size and density) and composition." Is the goal to use fire or to maintain diverse forest structure (size and density) and composition? State the goal not your conclusion. (County Government, OROFINO, ID – 5387)

The statement "confine off-highway vehicles to designated routes (non-winter season)" states a management action and should not be a goal in and of itself. Please tell me it is not an exclusive goal to confine off-highway vehicles without reason. If this confinement is necessary it should state the goal which makes it necessary. (County Government, OROFINO, ID – 5387)

"Reduce cattle grazing in the municipal watershed" states an action. I hope reducing cattle grazing it is not your primary goal. What is the goal: To reduce cattle grazing or to protect the water? State the goal not the conclusion. (County Government Agency, OROFINO, ID – 5387)

Objectives

III-29. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider what objectives to include in forest plan revisions.

GENERAL

The Wilderness Society recommends the following objectives for the planning process of the Clearwater and Nez Perce revision process: Keep larger wildlife areas largely undisturbed and maintain connections of undisturbed lands between various habitat types; ensure riparian protection and protection of a diversity of ecosystems; utilize and test innovative approaches to managing recreation; protect pristine riparian areas; and utilize new techniques for providing desired recreational experiences while maintaining overall landscape conservation value. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

ROADS

It is our opinion that a meaningful forest plan can not be developed without a clear set of objectives for road densities on both a forest wide and geographic area basis. We urge you to incorporate road density and road management objectives into all subsequent planning documents. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

The (Fish and Wildlife) Service strongly encourages the integration of various resources and disciplines associated with terrestrial ecosystems. It is imperative the revised Plans develop desired future conditions, goals, objectives and standards that integrate timber, silviculture, fire, wildlife, soils, and botanical management direction. The direction in the existing plans is often single-resource focused, and as such, has many areas where management direction for various resources is incongruous and conflicting. Integration of direction for all aspects of terrestrial management in the revised plans will avoid undesirable conflicts between resources and will ultimately and importantly result in management for healthy, functioning ecosystems. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

TIMBER HARVEST

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends consideration of the following management objectives when the U.S. Forest Service designs timber harvest plans . . . . Consider potential water quality impacts and erosion and sedimentation control. . . . Perform advance planning for forest road systems that includes . . . . Locate and design road systems to minimize . . . potential sediment generation and delivery to surface waters. . . . Determine road usage and select the appropriate road standard. . . . Locate and design temporary and permanent stream crossings to prevent failure and control impacts from the road system. . . . Ensure that . . . road surface design is consistent with the road drainage structures. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

TRAILS

Establish written trail objectives and desired future condition for each trail designated in this area to assure resource protection and an enjoyable trail user experience that, in the face of future recreation demands, retains the quiet and un-crowded recreational experience the area now provides. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

When possible, route OHV routes into adjacent communities. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

TREATY RIGHTS

By prescribing a forest wide management standard akin to the stewardship concept with the watershed approach for restoration, the forests can accomplish their vision of integrated resource management. The stewardship concept can ensure that vegetation management proceeds only in a manner that accomplishes an upward trend in watershed health. Such an approach goes a long way toward protecting treaty reserved resources, while also accomplishing other resource management needs on the Forests. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

WATER QUALITY

The forest plans should include an objective indicating that herbicides, pesticides, and other toxicants and chemicals be used in a safe manner in accordance with federal label instructions and restrictions that allow protection and maintenance of water quality standards and

ecological integrity, and avoid public health and safety problems. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

Standards and Guidelines

III-30. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure the establishment of strong standards.

GENERAL

I feel very, very strongly that there should be more, not less standards. With fewer standards the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) becomes a meaningless law, because there would be no project large enough or placed in location sensitive enough to violate the forest plan if there are no standards. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10784)

The new forest plans should set clear standards that protect: Riparian areas on all stream (including intermittent), Landslide prone slopes protected, Priority habitat areas designated for protection (e.g., no new roads in priority areas) and active restoration (where necessary). (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Although basing management decisions on larger areas of land may be helpful, there is no need to couple that with fewer standards and guidelines. Strong, defined, measurable standards and guidelines provide the basis for future monitoring and give unequivocal and consistent criteria for making decisions. Without prescriptions and standards, many questionable activities can be rationalized and justified. Standards and guidelines provide protection for both the decision-maker and those who have to live with the decisions that are made. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 136)

Great Burn Study Group is concerned about the statement that the revised forest plans will focus on desired future conditions and objectives with few standards and guidelines. Standards and guidelines are important components of any land management plan. There must be firm, specific standards and guidelines in order to measure progress towards meeting goals. Standards and guidelines also measure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Great Burn Study Group urges the Clearwater National Forest to develop standards and guidelines for the revised forest plan. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

ACCESS MANAGEMENT

We strongly urge the U.S. Forest Service to avoid establishing restrictive regulations in the name of "improve management of motorized and non-motorized recreation" which serve only to impair or deny public access. We are concerned that something akin to the Utah Bureau of Land Management plan which includes severe group size limits, strict limits on some forms of camping, mandatory use fees under certain conditions and thousands of miles of road and trail closures could evolve from the instant process. (Recreational, WHITE BIRD, ID – 32)

The analysis should take into account the safety of off-highway vehicle riders and other trail users. The Forest Service should consider forest-wide standards for helmet use, speed limits, licensing, and registration. While some issues may be sit-specific, the analysis should require that these issues be defined in each area. Signs at the trailheads should include contact information and directions to the nearest medical facilities. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

We request a forest-wide standard to protect and manage remaining forest trails for traditional non-motorized uses. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

Common standards for management should be considered for adoption in the forest plan. One such standard should be to maintain, reconstruct, and relocate existing roads and trails to reduce resource impacts. Emphasis should first be given to maintenance, reconstruction, and relocation of roads before closures are considered. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 10861)

AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is very supportive of the current direction of the forest plan revision aquatic working group to establish aquatic conservation areas as the basis for development of programmatic direction within the revised forest plans. We also support the U.S. Forest Service 's proposed use of PACFISH/INFISH goals and objectives as a tool to protect watersheds from degradation. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

. . . . Pacific Rivers Council respectfully suggests that environmental impact statement (EIS) team develop a list of aquatic strongholds (e.g. roadless areas) as a tool for prioritizing restoration efforts where they will provide the greatest biological benefit. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

Standards must ensure protection of riparian function. Special management standards must be applied to activities within the delineated riparian area to ensure that riparian area and instream processes and functions are not compromised. To assist in determining the condition of the aquatic ecosystem, riparian and instream objective must be established for both biological and physical parameters. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

. . . equivalent clearcut area is a measurement of the logging and roadbuilding that has occurred in a subwatershed. The current forest plans state that for any subwatershed, not more than 15% equivalent clearcut area (ECA) may be exceeded. The Tribe urges the forest to re-evaluate this standard, and to analyze a more restrictive standard to ensure protection of water quality from high peak flows and excess sediment yield. The equivalent clearcut area (ECA) level of 15% likely does not represent a standard that would allow recovery of watershed health where sediment levels exceed current forest plan standards for sediment. Another reason to evaluate the equivalent clearcut area (ECA) standard of 15% is its effects and correlation with the timing of the spring and summer runoff. As equivalent clearcut area (ECA) increases, snowmelt occurs earlier in the spring and produces higher peak flows, thus reserving a smaller snowmelt of cold water in the later summer months. The cold water that is being lost through increased equivalent clearcut area (ECA), from logging and road building , has had a detrimental effect on salmonids and other aquatic life that depend on cold clean water in the summer months. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

The (Fish and Wildlife) Service agrees with the proposed action that there is a need to integrate goals and objectives of aquatic, riparian, upland forest, and shrub land and grassland components to reflect and meet commitments under the [Endangered Species] Act. Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) depend on healthy aquatic and riparian systems on the two Forests for wintering habitat, and may nest in the area in the future. The plans should set desired future conditions and associated goals, objectives and standards that ensure resilient ecosystems which include healthy aquatic systems that are functionally integrated with riparian and upland systems. Management activities should conserve ecosystem function and connectivity and restore degraded ecosystem components. We suggest the revised plans prioritize watershed and aquatic restoration of degraded systems, and conservation of watershed and aquatic habitats that currently meet desired conditions. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

The strongest and best elements in the existing plans were the quantitative standards to protect watersheds, fish habitats, and fish populations. If quantitative standards for aquatic resources in the revised "strategic" plan are eliminated, the (Forest) Service's management will only generate more conflict, controversy, and potential litigation. Strong standards and guidelines that adequately protect and conserve aquatic resources are essential plan components. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

The Tribe strongly supports the use of numeric standards for water quality, fisheries, and desired future conditions that are utilized in the current forest plans. During the initial forest planning efforts in the 1980s, the Nez Perce Tribe and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission worked hard to get these standards into the forest plans (Appendix A and Appendix K). (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Reliance on Idaho Best Management Practices is not good enough for habitat. PACFISH/INFISH buffers should be maintained or expanded. Numeric water quality and fish habitat standards need to be maintained or improved. 303(d) listed streams: no management should occur until total maximum daily load (TMDL) is developed. Aquatic Species Conservation Strategy: must have numeric standards; incorporate new information generated by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in biological opinion remand, Basinwide Salmon Recovery Strategy. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 10872)

BULL TROUT, SALMON, STEELHEAD

Management of National Forest System Lands must include a Watershed and Aquatic Conservation Strategy. As aquatic species diversity has declined, it has become increasingly obvious that the Forest Service is not fulfilling its responsibilities under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). These duties require adoption and implementation of a landscape based watershed and aquatic conservation strategy, especially since the Clearwater and Nez Perce National forests have Chinook salmon, steelhead, west slope cutthroat trout, and bull trout. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

Given recent proposals by the federal government (draft biological opinion for federal hydro system) to rely upon habitat protection and restoration for the recovery of imperiled salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin, clear, quantitative fish habitat protection standards are more important than ever. Goals, objectives, and guidelines are not adequate for strong protection and conservation. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

The October 6, 2004, final rule designating bull trout critical habitat excluded a number of proposed areas on the Clearwater and Nez Perce forests from designation. . . . Conservation and recovery of bull trout on the two forests is promoted by retention of PACFISH/INFISH in the revised plans. The plan revision should incorporate the terms and conditions provided in the August 14,1998 Biological Opinion., "Consultation on effect to bull trout from continued implementation of U.S. Forest Service land resource management plans and Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans (RMPs) , as amended by PACFISH and INFISH," as part of the proposed action. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

The (Fish and Wildlife) Service is currently working on recovery planning for bull trout and can provide information and expertise to ensure the revised plans are integrated with our recovery planning documents. We suggest the revised plans identify key and priority watersheds for bull trout and set goals and measurable objectives to conserve and restore these high priority habitats, and to restore degraded habitats that are important to maintain connectivity between subpopulations. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

OTHER THREATENED, ENDANGERED AND SENSITIVE SPECIES

The forests should consider including standards and guidelines in the plans that establish consistent and predictable conservation measures for listed species and their habitats. The (Fish and Wildlife) Service understands that such direction will need to balance predictability with the need for flexibility in project implementation. The service is committed to cooperating in a creative process that anticipates future consultation needs in developing the revised Plans. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

Management direction should include standards, guidelines and procedures that ensure threatened, endangered and sensitive species are considered whenever the use of pesticides is contemplated. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

ELK HABITAT

Research continues to affirm traffic on roads, even bicycles can affect elk use of the surrounding habitat. The traffic patterns on the road can effectively make the surrounding habitat unfit for elk use. Road management will continue to be a critical factor to prescribe for elk habitat management on the roaded front within the forest. The plan should have standards for the miles of open roads per square mile of land. A new framework and vision for managing elk habitat in the basin is required. We recommend updating the current model for use in the next forest management plan. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

FISHERIES, WATER QUALITY

. . . in the current Nez Perce National Forest Plan, decision-makers are required to show that where forest plan standards for water quality or fisheries are not currently being met, a project must show an "upward trend." In the current Clearwater National Forest Plan, decision-makers are required to show that where forest plan standards for sediment are not currently being met, a project must produce "no measurable increase" in sediment. Through the revision process, the forests should take a hard look at the advantages and implications of both of these management alternatives. While both of these forest plan standards appear to mitigate impacts to watershed health, in practice they lack definition and their application has not been monitored for effectiveness. That being said, given the two options, the Tribe prefers the upward trend requirement with a robust definition that requires site-specific pre- and post-project monitoring to ground truth old and existing data, as well as modeled results. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

The Tribe is encouraged that the Forests recognize the need to integrate forest management direction with water quality and implementation of total maximum daily loads . . . under the Clean Water Act. Integration should set forward specific standards in the new forest plans. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

SPECIES VIABILITY

Species viability needs to be a standard that is measurable and monitored. Forest plans must include direct population trends, not just a proxy such as habitat. If more habitat is required with less intensive human use (e.g., roads), recommend keeping/moving land into management areas with limited human use (e.g. roadless). (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

RIPARIAN AREAS

Standards must ensure protection of riparian function. Special management standards must be applied to activities within the delineated riparian area to ensure that riparian area and instream processes and functions are not compromised. To assist in determining the

condition of the aquatic ecosystem, riparian and instream objective must be established for both biological and physical parameters. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

The following provides is a generalized list of the protected RA minimum widths, as measured from the edge of the floodplain, needed to protect/provide (relatively) unimpaired function of the following riparian processes; Microclimate/thermal regulation; 300 feet (U.S. Forest Service et al., 1993 Rhodes et al., 1994) Shade: 100 feet (U.S. Forest Service et al., 1993; Rhodes et al., 1994) LWD recruitment; 150 to 300 feet (U.S. Forest Service et al., 1993; Rhodes et al., 1994) Sediment prophylaxis: 300 feet (U.S. Forest Service et al., 1993; U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 1995) It should be noted that the widths above do not completely eliminate the potential for stream degradation via sediment delivery and or alteration of basin hydrology (e.g., peak flows) caused by the cumulative effects of land disturbing activities outside of RAs at the watershed scale. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

MATRIX LANDS

Management standards on matrix lands must ensure that the long term productivity of the matrix land is not degraded (as measured by such indicators as soil health, aquatic habitat and water quality), and that the use of the matrix land does not degrade the watershed's riparian area or the surrounding landscape in neighboring watersheds (as measured by such indicators as soil erosion or the exportation of chemical contaminants to off site areas). Recommendations from several scientific assessments (e.g., FEMAT, eastside Scientific Society Panel, etc.) have produced a variety of recommended default standards for management of matrix lands including, among others, prohibitions against timber harvest or road construction in areas prone to landslides, and conservation of existing roadless areas and late-successional old growth forests. . . . Management standards for matrix lands should be reviewed following completion of watershed scale analysis and updated accordingly. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

OLD GROWTH

Currently, there is a standard in the Forest Plan of keeping at least 10% of the forested areas as old growth. I support keeping this standard in the new forest plan. (Individual, TUCSON, AZ – 3781)

Recent research suggests that the amount of required old growth may be too low. Lesica (1995) stated that the Northern Region of the Forest Service's general goal of maintaining ten percent of forests as old growth may extirpate some species. This is based on his estimate that 20 - 50 percent of low and many mid-elevation forests were in old growth condition prior to European settlement. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Remnant cedar groves are rare refuges for biodiversity and the human spirit. Their protection from development or harvest is an essential element in the revised Forest Plan for Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 10860)

QUIET

Although it may seem unnecessary under current visitation levels to develop natural quiet standards for various sub areas within the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests, such standards will be extremely useful in the future as a tool to manage recreation and resource management concerns in the face of increasing visitation and increasing motorized recreation use. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

ROADLESS/RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS

In approaching roadless area management, Idaho Conservation League encourages planners to not develop these lands, to use tools that do not damage habitat or future wilderness potentials, such as prescribed fire. All of the roadless lands of both forests should be protected under a cohesive and comprehensive standard. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

Please retain, add, and enforce forest plan standards that keep roadless areas and proposed wilderness areas free of all motorized use year round.

Illegally cut new trails should not become permanently motorized and should be restored. I request that a forest wide standard be included that addresses this. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 3771)

Recommended wilderness areas on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests will require strong standards and guidelines to protect their wilderness characteristics pending Congressional action. As stated in the Access management section of the comments, one of the most important steps towards protecting the integrity of candidate wilderness areas is to close them to motorized and mechanized recreation. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

SOILS

Standards and guidelines that provide clear direction to provide for the long-term maintenance and recovery of soils are necessary to ensure sustainability and compliance with various laws and regulations. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

WILDERNESS

Standards (in wilderness plans) such as party size (defined as number of feet on the ground or some other method) might be an appropriate standard to include in the forest plans themselves. Smaller party sizes may be needed. All the (wilderness) plans seem to lack important monitor and measurable standards. They all need to be updated as part of this process. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Simply put, it is good for the country for there to be places where those with the initiative can go and encounter wilderness. Wilderness travel is humbling, it teaches us not to take our comforts and conveniences for grated, and it gives children especially a glimpse of the miraculous beauty of creation. It's good for children's spiritual development and I hope that your future management plans will take this value into account. (Individual, ALBUQUERQUE, NM – 1140)

III-31. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests must define how it plans to use PACFISH and INFISH direction.

DEFINE "MINOR MODIFICATIONS"

We agree that INFISH and PACFISH should be incorporated into the revised plan. However, we cannot completely agree with, nor can we comment on this very crucial proposed action without knowing what portions of INFISH and PACFISH you anticipate not adopting and what "minor modifications" you have in mind. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

In addition to roads, safeguards to ensure that logging, grazing, mining and other development activities should be stringently implemented to prevent water quality declines. To accomplish this, we strongly encourage a renewed commitment to PACFISH and INFISH standards. The Proposed Action referenced minor modifications to these standards. We are

interested in learning more about such modifications, the bases for them, and the necessity of carrying them out. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

The Tribe is encouraged by the Forests' commitment to carry forward many of the same strategies identified in PACFISH. However, the Tribe is somewhat concerned with the statement in the Notice of Intent states there will be minor modifications to PACFISH. The Tribe needs to know what the minor modifications are. We remain concerned that the minor modifications to PACFISH will result in more discretion for risky vegetation management, and less protection for water quality and aquatic resources. Closely examine the width of riparian conservation areas . . ., particularly in areas where buffers have been compromised. For example, many riparian buffers on the two Forests have been compromised by streamside roads or previous logging units that are adjacent to riparian areas. PACFISH did not adequately account for such disturbances, nor did PACFISH account for the highly unstable granitic soils that occur on steep slopes and in landslide prone area. In sensitive areas, the Tribe urges the Forests to require a greater level of protection (wider buffers) beyond that prescribed by PACFISH. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

. . . the forest must clearly identify the "minor modifications to PACFISH and INFISH and clearly document why modifications are necessary and how these modifications will improve aquatic species protection. Under no circumstances should existing standards be relaxed. The system of priority watershed designation should be maintained. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

ADD RESTORATION COMPONENT

The (Fish and Wildlife) Service supports the forests' proposal to adopt the PACFISH/INFISH interim guidance into the revised plans. However, the interim guidance did not include a restoration component, and we suggest the revised plans include a restoration strategy. We incorporate by reference the direction in the July 9, 2004 BLM/FS/FWS/EPA/NOAA Fisheries Memorandum "A Framework for Incorporating the Aquatic and Riparian Component of the Interior Columbia Basin Strategy into BLM and Forest Service Revisions," and suggest the Plan revision follow this guidance. This memorandum lists six components addressing aquatic and riparian management that should be included into revised Forest Plans. The six components include: riparian conservation areas, protection of population strongholds for listed or proposed species and narrow endemics, multi-scale analysis, restoration priorities and guidance, management direction, and monitoring/adaptive management. We also suggest the revised Plans follow the direction provided in the November 16, 2004 interagency memorandum on, "Coordination and Accountability of PACFISH and INFISH, 1998 NMFS and USFWS Opinions, and 2003 USFWS Opinion (Jarbridge)." Specifically, we suggest inclusion of the information in Enclosure B of the memorandum, "2005 PACFISH, INFISH Restoration Strategy. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

NEED SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Improve the interim INFISH/PACFISH standards. One of the proposed actions is to adopt the majority of the interim management direction of "INFISH and PACFISH" with minor modifications, such as revised riparian management objectives." However, there are numerous examples within the interim direction that need significant changes . . . The pool frequency objectives in the INFISH/PACFISH are one example of a well intentioned but flawed objective. On page a-4 of the INFISH Environmental Assessment Decision Notice (USDA Forest Service, 1995) Table A-2 provides interim objectives for pool frequency. This is fundamentally flawed and can be seen easily by using commonly know estimates for the frequency of bar units (i.e. pool, bar, and a riffle). Dunne and Leopold (1978) among others

estimate that riffle or pools occur about every five to seven bank full channel widths in alluvial streams and rivers. A simple calculation shows the values in INFISH don't work. The point is that there needs to be a specific reason for having an objective or standard and a way to quantitatively measure if this is achieving the objectives and/or goals. There is a great deal of research out there that describes the complexities of sampling stream attributes, describing existing conditions, and making the connection to management prescriptions, such as, Buffington et. al.'s (2002) paper on the "Controls on the size and occurrence of pools in coarse-grained forest rivers." (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

SNAKE RIVER BASIN AJUDICATION STANDARDS

"Interim" PACISH and INFISH policies are long over due to be replaced with up-to-date standards that were recently incorporated into the Snake River Basin Adjudication settlement Agreement. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 2100)

We are concerned over the future management of watersheds and aquatic ecosystem conditions. We believe current PACFISH and INFISH riparian area management standards are overly restrictive, prohibiting land management activities that would lead to improved long-term protection of riparian areas and adjacent lands. Current standards prohibit fuel treatment activities that would significantly reduce the threat of severely damaging wildfires to these very resources we wish to protect. We encourage you to use the newest riparian area management standards that were incorporated in the Snake River Basin Adjudication settlement agreement. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 57)

We believe contained application of PACFISH and INFISH interim standards limits needed active management and are now a long-term threat to the very resources they were designed to protect. These standards are excessive, and we suggest incorporation in the revision of the new standards developed in the Snake River Basin Adjudication settlement argument. These were scientifically-declared sufficient to recover treated fish populations. (Business, LEWISTON, ID – 103)

STRONGER STANDARDS

It is our recommendation that you develop and include quantitative standards for watersheds, fish habitats, and fish populations in the revised plans. These standards must be stronger than existing PACFISH and INFISH standards. Legal and scientific judgments clearly indicate that the PACFISH and INFISH standards were to be interim until stronger standards could be developed and put in place. Under no circumstances should any of the protections and restoration goals be weakened. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

III-32. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should review regional assessments of protection and restoration needs for aquatic resources on public lands for consideration during plan revisions.

Many regional assessments of protection and restoration needs for aquatic resources on public lands in the west have been completed over last decade and half. These provide an indication of measures needed in Land Resource Management Plans . . .to protect and restore aquatic resources. For instance, all the following are common to most credible approaches for the protection and restoration of aquatic resources: a) full protection of soils and vegetation in riparian areas from logging and roads for distances of at least 300 feet from the edges of perennial streams and 100 feet from non perennial streams. b) Full protection of soils and vegetation in unstable areas; c) Full protection of roadless areas (.1000 ac.) and other high quality habitats from roads, logging, and mining; d) consistent decreases in road

mileage and density; e) Elimination of grazing, or reduction in its extent and intensity. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

III-33. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop plan revisions that support consultations under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

The (Fish and Wildlife) Service would like to work with you toward a goal of developing revised plans that anticipate and support future consultations under section 7 of the Act. If we are strategic in the way we address issues related to threatened and endangered species and their habitats, the section 7 consultation on the revised plans could provide a framework for consultation on future management actions and programs that is efficient, predictable, and supports species recovery. One aspect of this is to assure that future decisions about plan and program implementation are made at the appropriate level in the organization. Under present Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Plans, there are situations where critical decisions about species protection and conservation are made in context of consultation streamlining Level 1 discussions. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

III-34. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider their responsibilities to provide for protection of migratory birds.

We also suggest the revised plans consider the Forest Service responsibilities to protect migratory birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as outlined in the 2001 Executive Order 13186, "Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds." This Order, among other provisions, calls for federal agencies to "design migratory bird habitat and population conservation principles, measures, and practices into agency plans and planning processes (natural resources, land management, and environmental quality planning, including, but not limited to, forest and rangeland planning, coastal management planning, watershed planning, etc.) as practicable, and coordinate with other agencies and nonfederal partners in planning efforts." (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

III-35. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure the inclusion of noxious weed management standards.

We agree that noxious weed management standards and action are critical to the restoration of degraded ecosystem. The potential for spread of noxious weeds should be incorporated into the access management standards and objectives. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

We encourage the forest to continue participation in the local weed management areas and to develop programmatic guidelines that allow for quick response to eradicate new invaders. Utilization of biological, chemical, preventative and restoration of vegetation in disturbed areas are strongly encouraged in managing existing widespread infestations on the Forest. (Place-Based Group, OROFINO, ID – 3282)

Uses and Activities

III-36. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should reconsider the content of the uses and activities table and its implications in the proposed action.

The activities table would be to limiting and confusing to users. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 123)

In describing the uses and activities table (p. 15) the motorized non-winter use dates are problematic. Most of the damage that comes from motorized use is related to wet conditions use, the shoulder seasons, and using April 15 to December 1 allows that wet-season abuse to continue. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

Activity tables should identify all sectors of the resource management scenario; hidden agendas could be easily developed, which leads to continued mistrust of federal land managers. (Place-Based Group, OROFINO, ID – 3282)

Activities table was not included in description of goals for any inventoried roadless areas. Geographic area table should include need to strengthen new construction of roads to facilitate a meaningful timber sale program. (Individual, KOOSKIA, ID – 5383)

As far as the activities table, my only fear is the elimination of an activity from a geographic area if that activity is in the minority and not worth managing in someone's opinion. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3769)

CLARIFICATIONS

The uses and activities table is extremely generic and does not provide a framework for meaningful direction. The table fails to include uses and activities associated with amenity resources like Roadless area recreation. If this table is supposed to replace an allocation scheme (management emphasis) for the Geographic Areas, it is certainly not adequate. If forest-wide or geographic area direction is too broad or generic (lacks clarification, quantitative standards, and accountability), this table and approach are relatively worthless. In particular, the road management classification in the table doesn't make sense, road management is defined as building or removing roads. The activities of road decommissioning and road construction should be clearly delineated. Active and passive restoration priorities should be clearly delineated for each geographic area, whether in the table, or as components of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

ADDITIONS

The uses and activities table 1 on page 15 of the proposed action document should be modified to include a category titled "Permitted Outfitting/Guiding". None of the present 12 categories in this table adequately relate to "Permitted Outfitting/Guiding". By not adding such a category, the Clearwater and Nez Perce are not recognizing a historic use. In connection with Table 1, a definition of "Permitted Outfitting/Guiding" should be added to the list of definitions on Page 16. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 4894)

The Tribe would like the forests to add the following uses and activities to this analysis: (1) watershed restoration; (2) road building (both temporary and permanent); (3) fish and wildlife conservation; and (4) fuels reduction and other vegetation management. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

III-37. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the public's demand for roads and trails when including direction for recreation in plan revisions.

Consider proliferation of new, unplanned roads and trails as signs of the recreation staff not keeping up with demand. Think, "recreational infrastructure planning," not "travel management." Think in terms of providing recreational experience, not in terms of punishing the public for searching for such experience. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

III-38. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should clarify the direction for prescribed fire in wilderness.

I do not agree with the use of prescribed fire in wilderness. I firmly believe that human ignition with the intent of starting a small forest fire violates the Wilderness Act. If this is even being contemplated, I strongly suggest that the revised plan state which way it will go: Prescribed fire in wilderness or not? (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

Alternatives

III-39. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider a full range of alternatives.

I am especially concerned that a full range of alternative plans be explored after the assessment is complete. In other forest plans, a rather small range of alternatives were offered, giving the impression that those were the only alternatives available. In some cases, as in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (HCNRA), citizens were forced to bring a different, native ecosystem alternative to the table. (Individual, – 10864)

SUGGESTED MANAGEMENT THEMES

This alternative strives to accommodate a wide variety of uses encouraging users to accept diversity of interest as a valuable component to the diversity of our resources. The focus is on active management and commodity use, quality motorized recreational experiences. It contributes to local and regional economies and would maintain or increase existing levels of access as appropriate. This alternative responds to needs for changes in policies and social conditions and does not attempt to drive social change. Management is active in most areas outside wilderness. Active vegetation management, commodity use, motorized access and recreation are widely dispersed across landscapes to minimize impacts and potential conflicts. It addresses the belief that forests can be managed to benefit economics, livelihoods while providing ecosystem values and quality recreation experiences. Encourages protection of core wildland regions (specifically wilderness complexes) and recommends inventoried roadless areas for multiple-use until/unless Congress approves for inclusion in wilderness system. It is intended to give priority to threatened and endangered species recovery as appropriate and anticipates creating jobs associated with restoration activities. It emphasizes commodity, motorized and non-motorized recreational uses of the forest. It represents the belief that significant management inputs can do the best job to benefit economics, livelihoods and utilitarian traditions while providing for ecosystem values and quality recreation experiences. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 27)

Management plan direction should address maintenance and restoration of degraded habitats. The environmental impact statement (EIS) should assure that alternatives and analyses address issues such as: existing quality and capacity of wildlife habitat; security, displacement, fragmentation, connectivity; maintenance of wildlife movement corridors/trails; road access, forest openings; edge effects and impacts upon species of special concern, sensitive, and threatened and endangered species. Estimated reductions in impact from mitigation should also be addressed. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

TRIBAL ALTERNATIVE

At a minimum, the forest should begin to analyze a tribal alternative in the forest plan revisions. The tribal alternative should include the practical applications of co-management . . . . as well as . . . how to address each of the Tribe's issues of concern with respect to the five primary management revision topics (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

III-40. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should use input from local resource working groups when developing alternatives.

We encourage the forest staff to utilize the tools, policies and guidelines developed through local resource working group efforts in developing alternatives for consideration. (Place - Based Group, OROFINO, ID – 3282)

III-41. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should show the disposition of issues in alternatives.

Blue Ribbon Coalition strongly encourages the Forest Service to embrace the spirit of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by including the following in the next stage of planning: Brief but sufficient analysis of the relevant issues and opposing viewpoints to enable decision makers and the general public to reasonable understand the issues as well as understand how each issue was dealt with in each alternative. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

III-42. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop a multiple-use alternative.

We ask that you develop, select, and defend a more reasonable multiple-use alternative to address the concerns and issues that we have brought forward in this submittal including the information and issues presented in the attached (100-page) checklist. (Motorized Recreation, HELENA, MT – 15)

III-43. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should analyze the effects of each alternative on biological corridors.

Federal courts have interpreted National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to require land management agencies to consider and evaluate impacts to biological corridors. Marble Mountain Audubon v. Rice (No. 90-15389, D.C. No. CV89-170-EJG, Sept. 13, 1990). The standard for such a review is the same "hard look" NEPA requires of other environmental effects. The Forest Service therefore must analyze the effects of each of the alternatives on possible biological corridors in the area, including species-specific assessments of corridor location and use. This assessment should place emphasis on the migration corridors for large roaming species and endangered, threatened, and sensitive species.
(Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

III-44. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should craft an alternative based on Senator Crapo's elk collaboration recommendations.

Craft an alternative that fully includes and implements the annual disturbance acreage goals by Idaho Fish and Game Department (IDFG) Elk Management Unit that were included in a consensus recommendation of Senator Crapo's Clearwater Elk Collaborative.
(Preservation/Conservation, SAGLE, ID – 4896)

The CERT further recommends that all other consensus recommendations that relate to federal land management and interaction with the Nez Perce Tribe and the State of Idaho be integrated into the above stated CERT recommendation concerning crafting an alternative.
(Preservation/Conservation, SAGLE, ID - 4896)

The Clearwater Elk Recovery Team (CERT) believes that the annual disturbance goals for elk forage creation and rejuvenation can serve as a highly appropriate and effective centerpiece for crafting such an alternative, among others, for seeking public comment

related to forest plan revision. The Clearwater Elk Recovery Team (CERT) requests that you restate, in more detail, including your full rationale, why you object to the creation and presentation of such an alternative during the public comment phase of forest plan revision. (Place Based Group, SAGLE, ID – 28)

III-45. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should analyze ecological impacts in alternatives.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is interested in retention of adequate snags and woody debris on the ground for wildlife habitat and necessary ecological structure and functioning (including soil productivity and nutrient cycling). We believe revised forest plan direction should assure that projects analyze and disclose impacts of management on snag habitat and large woody debris. Direction for snag retention and large woody debris requirements should be described, and should help restore these declining habitat characteristics. Standards and Guidelines for snag retention and large woody debris should be part of the alternatives analysis. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

. . . in the current Nez Perce National Forest Plan, decision-makers are required to show that where forest plan standards for water quality or fisheries are not currently being met, a project must show an "upward trend." In the current Clearwater National Forest Plan, decision makers are required to show that where forest plan standards for sediment are not currently being met, a project must produce "no measurable increase" in sediment. Through the revision process, the Forests should take a hard look at the advantages and implications of both of these management alternatives. While both of these forest plan standards appear to mitigate impacts to watershed health, in practice they lack definition and their application has not been monitored for effectiveness. That being said, given the two options, the Tribe prefers the upward trend requirement with a robust definition that requires site specific pre and post project monitoring to ground truth old and existing data, as well as modeled results. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

III-46. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should address issues related to wilderness, recommended wilderness and roadless.

The proposed action states on Page 9, "Areas recommended for addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System will be closed to motorized and mechanical (equipment with wheels transportation). The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) needs to develop a range of alternatives for this issue. In some alternatives, motorized use would be prohibited. In other alternatives, motorized or mechanical use could be allowed on a seasonal or yearlong basis under monitored conditions. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

At some point the Forest Service will need to end the state of suspended management in which proposed wildernesses languish today. A range of alternatives should be developed to address management of each roadless unit, including those that are currently proposed wilderness. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

From the standpoint of wilderness, Idaho Environmental Ccouncil would like to suggest that one alternative recommend something fairly close to all roadless area for wilderness. Another could properly recommend just those areas with the widest public support: Mallard-Larkins (expand to include Chamberlain), Great Burn (including Cayuse Creek), Fish and Hungery (the proposed Lewis and Clark Trail Wilderness), some part of Weitas (Cook Mtn.), significant wilderness restoration to Elk Summit, and by no means the least, all of the Meadow Creek, nothing in Weitas). This kind of realistic range is necessary if a genuine

knowledge of resource tradeoffs is to be made available to the public. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 25)

Recommendations for wilderness status should appear-at varying levels-in more than one alternatives. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 25)

III-47. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should analyze alternatives that define the status of trails as open or closed.

The Forests should analyze an alternative that designates all trails closed, unless designated open and only open when analyses have been completed to insure the protection of water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Our preferred alternative is for all existing motorized roads and trails in the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest project area to remain open to motorized use. Our preferred alternative also includes enhancements to mitigate significant cumulative negative effects that motorized recreationists have experienced and to adequately meet the growing needs of the public for motorized access and motorized recreation. (Motorized Recreation, HELENA, MT – 15)

III-48. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop alternatives to ensure off-highway vehicle opportunities.

Develop management alternatives that allow for proactive off-highway vehicle (OHV) management. All alternatives should include specific provisions to mark, map and maintain existing OHV opportunities. All alternatives should include instructions to engage in cooperative management with OHV groups and individuals. Alternatives should include areas where OHV trails can be constructed and maintained when demand increases. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

A planning team should look for management alternatives that provide for mitigation instead of closure. Options other than closure should be emphasized in each alternative. I would like to see alternatives, or management guidance, directives etc. that require closure as the first and only option when resource impacts are identified should be voided. (Individual, ELK CITY, ID – 1145)

Blue Ribbon Coalition requests that travel management alternatives be developed with the objective of including as many roads and trails as possible and addressing as many problems as possible by using all possible mitigation measures. Mitigation first, closure last. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 10861)

The Forest Service cannot legitimately address increasing demand for off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation opportunity by refusing to accommodate such demand. Alternatives must prudently provide for increased OHV recreation opportunities to meet current and anticipated demand. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

III-49. In each alternative the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider broad strategic direction for displaced use.

In each alternative, the planning team should carefully consider how the broad strategic direction contained in each alternative will have on displaced use. Assuming that (road and trail) closures are imminent in some areas, one could calculate approximately how much existing motorized will be displaced to other areas. The planning team should develop alternatives that allow for additional access and additional recreational opportunities in

suitable areas in order to properly manage the displaced use. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

III-50. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should provide statistics in alternatives for miles of bicycling routes.

International Mountain Bicycling Association believes the following policies should generally apply on national forest lands. When evaluating the number of miles of bicycling routes proposed by various plan alternatives, the Forest Service should present separate statistics for roads and versus trails. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4387)

III-51. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should analyze alternatives for effects on natural quiet.

We urge the Forest Service to analyze the impacts of each alternative on natural quiet. The National Park Service has planned for and modeled natural quiet in some of their units. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

III-52. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should analyze alternatives for economic impacts.

The estimated cost of implementation should include: Law enforcement; route maintenance; trash pickup and removal needs; monitoring for inappropriate or irresponsible riding behavior, changes in water quality and stream health, sedimentation and soil erosion, damage to vegetation, and monitoring of species habitat to assess whether routes need to be closed (for example, manpower funding monitoring impacts to a suite of native wildlife species that are shown to be affected by all-terrain vehicle use). The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document must analyze the economic impact of each alternative using the costs of implementation. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

III-53. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should avoid rigid standards when identifying recreation opportunities and settings.

. . . identification of opportunity and settings must not be translated into rigid standards in any of the alternatives. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

III-54. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should analyze a tribal alternative for plan revisions.

ALTERNATIVE TO CO-MANAGEMENT

If the forests have difficulty in analyzing tribal co-management as a key revision topic in the forest plans, we believe the Forest Service also currently has several tools available to carry out its fiduciary responsibilities to the Nez Perce Tribe. These tools include analyzing a tribal alternative during the revision process, prescribing a management standard akin to the stewardship concept with the watershed approach for restoration, examining the charter forest concept of turning management over to the Tribe, or identifying the need of transferring the national forest lands back to the Nez Perce Tribe. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Site-specific Alternatives

III-55. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should include the following site-specific suggestions in alternatives.

We encourage you to close the 555 road as the impacts are high and the need is small. If you are unwilling to close the entire road, we strongly suggest you close the road at the guard station to stop the major erosion near the bridge and limit access. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 10868)

We also feel that it would help the economy in our area if the 500 road could be groomed from Pierce to Powell. (Motorized Recreation, OROFINO, ID – 3901)

Chapter 4 – Natural Resource Management

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Natural Resources Management

Area Management

Protection

IV-1. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should protect national forest lands.

We are the caretakers. if not us, now then who and when? Not the U.S. president whose job ought to be protecting it, but who from his expressed opinions about our other great wilderness resources (Alaska) it seems is fully in favor of opening every last wilderness area to development. Leaving nothing for the future may be his motto, it should not be ours. These last few remaining forests are important in far more ways than the few that are mentioned here, such as a path running from the far north through the Rockies for all migrating animals and finally they represent the spiritual heart of the nation, the last frontier which must be preserved and protected at all costs. (Individual, OLYMPIA, WA – 2663)

Please plan management to adequately protect and preserve these areas so our group and others like us can continue to "get away" to special areas and re-group from the hecticness of everyday work life. (Individual, SAINT PETERSBURG, FL – 5343)

We want these places protected from adverse environmental impacts. This could include road closures, road obliteration, roadless protection from logging, mining, grazing or motorized abuse. I strongly urge you to protect all natural resources on the forests by having strong standards for water quality, limiting motorized use to roads only, not cutting old growth forests and restoring habitat for wildlife. My reasons for protecting public lands include the need for biological integrity to ensure the sustainability of our living forest and to provide a quality environment for wildlife and people. (Individual, SANDIEGO, CA – 141)

CONSEQUENCES OF MANAGEMENT

"Management" for the most part interferes with the natural functions and processes. This interference has included fire suppression, spread of exotic species, loss of wildlife habitat, increased erosion, and loss of biological integrity to name a few. We need to better understand the dynamics of living forest ecosystems and not be quick to action without better understanding the consequences of our actions. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

We are learning that the more we "manage" the forests, the more trouble we cause the system and ourselves down the road. For example, the ill-fated "stop-all-forest-fires" policies have backfired. We must take the lightest hand possible on our forests. They manage themselves much better than humans can every hope to. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 139)

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Rivers, lakes, pristine forests, clean air and water, an abundance of wildlife are an important part of the current economic base for rural communities. Protecting these resources will hold present residents and likely attract new residents. This "natural infrastructure" supports overall economic development and may lead to in-migration. Protecting clean air and water and quality recreation opportunities will likely protect present and future economic performance. Such protections will likely create other economic sectors such as wood

manufacturing. The trade-offs need to be understood in terms of diversity and long-term impacts. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

If we promote and protect (with more than half-hearted measures) the natural and historical attributes of the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests, the rural economies will thrive. I'm not just talking about growing a tourist trade, although more tourists will be attracted. I'm also talking about growing other businesses who want their employees to live in healthy environments. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA – 3283)

FUTURE GENERATIONS

Remember Frank Church's statements that these lands belong to thousands of generations before and after us. We can't just do as we please, but must have responsibility. And we know now that many roads erode the forest, and inevitably open the forest to exploitation and disrespect. Remember Frank Church's statement as you deliberate, and you won't fail us. (Individual, SEDRO WOOLLEY, WA – 143)

Production and economic outputs should be distinctly subservient to the goal of a healthy, sustainable forest. Regardless of "social expectation," the Forest Service's first priority is to protect the forest for this and future generations. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 136)

QUIET AND SOLITUDE

"Wild" areas need to be protected, or all we will have is the stench and drone of the internal combustion engines, and no truly wild places for the critters and people who desire peace and quiet. Do we really need to have resource extraction and noisy, stinking vehicles on most of the land? Actually, these endeavors occupy most of the land at present. (Individual, BROOMFIELD, CO – 1674)

We need wild lands and healthy ecosystems to balance urbanization. We need forests to absorb carbon dioxide and provide oxygenated air. We need functioning soil ecosystems to store excess carbon. We need watersheds that provide fish habitat. Humans too, need special, quiet places where we can connect with Mother Nature and calm our minds. The road density within our national forests is high enough. Therefore we need to protect and provide wild, unroaded places for both wildlife habitat and the human spirit. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 5438)

RECREATION

Recreation is the future of the national forests, with a stress on non-motorized that facilitates the survival of their complement of native flora and fauna. As the U.S. population grows, primitive recreation will burgeon, it is essential to conserve these lands now and not road and high-grade their forests. (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN – 12)

ROADLESS AND WILDERNESS

Stop the short-sighted attacks on our dwindling "protected lands." Keep the protection on 58.5 million acres of roadless land and fulfill your mandate under the law for stewardship. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3162)

The protection of our collective natural resources is the greatest act of homeland security. The preservation of wilderness areas is the greatest gift to future generations of Americans. I urge you to pass on the legacy of both security and wilderness. (Individual, VERONA, WI – 6062)

The roadless rule is exactly what is needed to preserve undisturbed areas that can allow natural processes and biota to continue into the future. Not only has government and academic data confirmed the importance of preservation, but the 2.2 million public comments that supported the institution of the roadless rule speaks for the will and desire of Americans. (Individual – SHELBURNE, VT – 5429)

WATER QUALITY

We are . . . interested in disclosure of the programs and processes to be used to identify and subsequently protect the aquatic ecosystems from potential adverse effects of potential resource development activities (e.g., road construction and timber harvest, mining, grazing, etc.). For example, the environmental impact statement should identify if aquatic habitat is impaired by road construction, and/or conditions of existing roads; timber practices; mining; concentrated recreation use, etc., and if existing impairments will be corrected as a result of changes in management direction. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

Many Forest Service projects have potentially disastrous effects on aquatic ecosystems. Frissell and Bayles (1996, p. 231) summed up the current state of affairs as follows: "For aquatic systems in the west, the management crisis arises from the cumulative and persistent effects of thousands of miles of roads, thousands of dams, and a century of logging, grazing, mining, cropland farming, channelization, and irrigation diversion." (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

The Clearwater River watershed includes about 60 percent Forest Service and 40 percent other ownership. In order to sustain water quality and quantity, other landowners need to be considered when determining public land management. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

IV-2. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should restore national forests lands.

Many acres on the Clearwater and the Nez (Perce) are roaded, logged, mined, and abused by off-road vehicle use. You have the opportunity to restore these lands through the new forest plan. Restoration should include permitting dense, overcrowded forests to burn naturally, road obliteration, closing of trails to off-road-vehicle use (especially in roadless acres), and replanting of native shrubs in riparian areas. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID 3888)

Putting people to work restoring our natural areas will protect our freedom to enjoy the quiet areas that make America special. Right now, our backcountry, fish, wildlife and water and threatened by more roads than we need or can afford to maintain. We need to restore balance, save money, and create jobs to keep our Forest Service lands special by returning unneeded roads to their natural state. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 5372)

The avoidance of additional damage is a vitally important aspect of restoration. It is much more effective biologically, fiscally and logistically to avoid damaging aquatic habitat than attempting to restore damaged conditions. In many cases, water quality and aquatic habitat damage from roads cannot be rapidly or fully arrested and reversed, even with costly intervention. Additional degradation always reduces the effectiveness of restoration measures. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

. . . because of treaty obligations with the Nez Perce Tribe, the forests should strengthen their efforts to improve habitat conditions, connectivity between habitats, and riparian restoration activities. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

Active Management

IV-3. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should provide opportunities for work and play.

To obtain a healthy ecosystem in the forest, we need human care to be involved. We need access to the forest to reach this goal. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 1162)

This land is unused. I cannot think of a more unfortunate thing to do than deprive thousands of hart-working, licensed recreational enthusiasts, and let it sit. (Individual, PETALUMA, CA – 450)

We need to be using the word conservation a lot more and the word preservation a lot less. Preserve renewable resources for what reason? Ten thousand horses used the Lewis and Clark Trail one summer, who would ever know? We could let ten thousand vehicles use the Lewis and Clark Trail next summer and who would ever know? (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 4379)

Enforcement

IV-4. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure enforcement of regulations.

Make sure that any regulations that protect against harm to the forest or animals and plants living there have a strong deterrent effect and are enforced. (Individual, WHITTIER, CA – 546)

Analysis

IV-5. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should include watershed scale analysis in forest plan revisions.

Watershed analysis provides the basis for monitoring and restoration programs. Monitoring encompasses the gathering of data at multiple scales both temporally (short, intermediate, and long term) and geographically (stream reach, subbasin, catchments basin, and range-wide) for evaluation of implementation and effectiveness of the ACS. Watershed Scale Analysis is necessary for informed decision making. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

Physical Elements

Watershed Management

IV-6. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should focus on protecting and restoring watersheds.

Management direction in the forest plans should focus on protecting properly functioning watersheds and a strategy of aggressively restoring non-properly functioning and degraded watersheds. Such an approach is consistent with tribal co-management of habitat improvements and watershed protection on the forests, as well as the Clearwater Subbasin Plan. Forest Service management strategies should aggressively compliment and enhance the salmon recovery efforts and watershed restoration investments undertaken by the Nez Perce Tribe in partnership with the Forest Service. Since 1997, the Tribe's contribution in this effort has exceeded $15 million, the forests need to protect these investments. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

The proposed use of geographic areas – I agree with the concept of, but overall watershed management should be treated as a separate entity to which the other areas are subordinate. (Individual, RIGGINS, ID – 1926)

Several regional aquatic protection strategies have stressed the importance of providing as much, or more, riparian protection to smaller perennial and intermittent streams, in order to protect resources and habitats in downstream perennial streams. These smaller streams typically comprise about 70 to 80 percent of the entire channel network length. Damage to headwater streams and riparian areas degrades habitats in headwater streams and downstream reaches. Due to their sensitivity, headwater streams need as much protection, or more, than larger downstream reaches, if aquatic habitats and water quality at the watershed scale are to be protected. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

Additional considerations also show the need for full protection of floodplains along streams. Streams migrate across floodplains. Obviously enough, during floods, streams occupy much of the floodplain. The failure to fully include floodplains in RAs (riparian areas) allows considerable stream degradation during periods of flooding. This is a critical defect, since sediment delivery from anthropogenic sources tends to be highest during flooding triggered by major storms. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

The first step in establishing a system of aquatic strongholds is identification of the last best places. The second step involves the evaluation of the initial network to ensure it encompasses the important breeding and rearing areas and migratory corridors crucial to the survival of native fishes, amphibians, and aquatic-dependent reptiles. If the initial network is skewed in its geographic or taxonomic coverage, additional watersheds must be added to include further areas that can serve as recovery anchor points. It is crucial that the identification process consider both the geographic and taxonomic contests; that is, the network of key watersheds must be well distributed across the land and must include areas of importance to all aquatic species. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR - 3869)

IV-7. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should identify areas to be considered in watershed management planning.

The identification of priority watersheds must be founded on sound ecological principles that do not reflect a bias towards a narrow category of species and against those of little or no interest to people. The purpose is to establish a starting point for landscape-scale recovery. Clearly species already in danger of extinction must be explicitly considered. However, care must be taken that the selection process does not promote future declines of new ignored or poorly understood aquatic species. Healthy, diverse, interconnected aquatic systems clearly are needed to recover endangered and threatened species and to extend protection to at-risk species. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

Establishing aquatic conservation areas is a great idea. Water courses reflect the health of the terrestrial ecosystems they flow through. Integration of TMDL (total maximum daily load of sediment) with the state is appropriate for endangered species recovery and contiguous watershed healthy. (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN – 12)

The existing Nez Perce plan contains non-degradation direction for a number of watersheds. Experience shows this strategy has in reality hindered watershed recovery by preventing rational and well-thought-out restoration projects. The draft plan must not fall into this trap. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IV-8. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recognize the many benefits of watershed protection.

BALANCED APPROACH

The city supports the mitigation of watershed degradation and the recovery of degraded aquatic ecosystems by incorporating riparian and stream protections. At the same time, it is important to understand that a balanced approach between natural resources, economic development and recreation demands needs to be considered here. (City Government, OROFINO, ID – 3281)

ECOLOGICAL TREASURE

Areas where aquatic ecosystems are considered healthy, such as Meadow Creek or the Old Man Creek, must be recognized and treated as irreplaceable ecological treasures. A broad scientific consensus has been reached that "important areas," (including key watersheds and riparian areas) must be identified and protected if efforts to conserve aquatic habitats and the species that depend upon them are to be successful. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

HUMAN NEEDS

So if America and the rest of the natural world want to avoid a pending freshwater deficit – quietly evolving by human mistakes for millennia – we all need to protect our freshwater watersheds and aquatic ecosystems one drainage at a time. (Individual, NAMPA, ID – 7092)

Ground water under a project area may serve as a drinking water supply and/or a recharge source of nearby surface water bodies. Contamination from forest management activities could have an adverse public health or ecological impact on such resources. Management direction should assure that ground water is adequately protected from risks (e.g., use of mitigation measures and barriers) . . . . (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

RECREATION

Protecting the watersheds to the highest possible standard should be commonplace on federal land. Many people are coming to the Clearwater forest in May – June to float and boat Fish Creek and the Lochsa, filling Wildeness Gateway to overflowing and bringing national attention to the forest. They value clean healthy water, clean air and wild places, which is a common thread among Americans. (Individual, WEIPPE, ID – 1121)

IV-9. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should prohibit activities that could impair watersheds.

Given the crucial nature of the watersheds on these two forests, they should be free from co-modification like logging, mining, mineral development, grazing, industrial recreation (recreation, like ski resorts, etc.) and off-road vehicles (including snowmobiles). (Individual, TROY, ID – 4383)

The environmental impact statement should recognize that discharge of fill material into wetlands and other waters of the United States is regulated by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. We recommend that the land and resource management plans ensure consultation with the Corps of Engineers where appropriate to determine applicability of 404 permit requirements and silvicultural exemptions to specific project-level forest construction activities in or near streams or wetlands . . . . (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

Federal land management agencies should immediately use existing authorities to prohibit or minimize new pollution loadings that will compound existing impairments. This requirement would help to even the score between point and nonpoint sources, given that current Environmental Protection Agency regulations prohibit new or additional point source discharges that would cause or contribute to existing impairments. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

Riparian Areas

IV-10. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should protect riparian areas.

Riparian and stream channel migration corridors require special protections. Riparian areas along both permanent and intermittent streams as well as those associated with wetlands, ponds, lakes and reservoirs most directly affect the hydrologic, geomorphic and ecologic processes of the aquatic ecosystem. The condition is the primary determinant of the ecological integrity of the aquatic ecosystem and dictates the resiliency of the aquatic environment to natural and human-induced change. In a natural setting, riparian areas interact constantly with stream channels through the exchange of floodwaters, nutrients, and organic materials. Riparian vegetation is critical to the reduction of bank erosion, the provision of shade and cover for aquatic species, the filtration of nutrients, the interception of fine sediment, the provision of woody debris to the stream systems, and the maintenance of crucial microclimate elements such as soil moisture, radiation, soil temperature, air temperature, wind speed and relative humidity. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

Riparian delineation must be ecologically based. Riparian areas must be delineated so as to identify that area of a watershed most directly connected to the ecological processes and functions of the aquatic and riparian ecosystems. This means that site-specific information, gathered as part of an ecological analysis of the watershed, will be necessary to finalize precise boundaries . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

IV-11. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should base riparian management on site-specific information.

Riparian management should be considered on a case-by-case basis. In the moist habitat types of both forests, stand replacing wildfire was the historic agent of change. We are currently preserving areas that historically would have burned, and by doing so are creating "wicks" that will carry fire and burn more severely in the future. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 3767)

We encourage the Forest Service to assure that projects tiered to the land resource management plan delineate and mark perennial seeps and springs and wetlands on maps and on the ground before disturbance so that disturbance to such areas can be avoided. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

Municipal Watersheds

IV-12. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should protect municipal watersheds.

We recommend that land and resource management plans should: identify the locations of drinking water sources (i.e., surface water intakes, ground water wells) for public water supplies affected by activities caused by the forest plans; identify activities that may impact the quality of the identified surface or ground water sources (e.g., turbidity, total organic

carbon, organic chemicals, inorganic chemicals; bacteriological/viral/pathogenic organisms, pesticides radionuclides, herbicides, etc.; disclose measures (i.e., management prescriptions, standards, guidelines, BMPs (best management practices) barriers, etc.) designed to protect water quality of the affected sources; review agency programs, permits and projects to identify and categorize risks to public water supplies that require special considerations. Review or establish a monitoring program to determine whether established land and resource management plan guidance adequately protects drinking water delivered to public water supplies or if additional measures are needed; for projects and programs having high risks for pollution (such as oil and gas, cyanide heap leach) to sources of drinking water, escrow accounts adequate for protection, emergency cleanup and proper post-operation rehabilitation are strongly recommended. Include language in forest plan area-wide goals that requires separate national environmental policy act analysis and approval of any proposed application of toxic substances. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

Watershed Restoration

IV-13. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should restore watersheds.

I urge that each of the following streams be recovered and restored to a natural environment to improve the forest areas. Collins Creek, Upper Roaring Creek, Quartz Creek, Washington Creek, Sneak Creek, French Creek, Orogrande Creek, Moose Creek, Lake Creek, Osier Creek, Laundry Creek, Upper North Fork Clearwater River, Hemlock Creek, Middle Creek, Badger Creek, Fishing Creek, Shotgun Creek, Haskell Creek, Brushy Fork Creek, Pack Creek, Twin Creek, Reed Creek, Willow Creek, Upper Post Office Creek, Horse Creek, Silver Creek, Twenty Mile Creek, Mill Creek, Meadow Creek, Cougar Creek, Peasley Creek, Lolo Creek, Eldorado Creek, American River, Crooked River, Red River, Newsome Creek, Upper Crooked Creek, Big Creek, Pete King Creek, Canyon Creek, Deadman Creek, Glade Creek, Middle Butte Creek, Bimerick Creek, Clear Creek. (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN – 3877)

The inclusion within the Watershed and Aquatic Conservation Strategy of provisions for the identification and protection of aquatic strongholds is needed to establish a network of watersheds across the landscape that can serve as near term anchor points for restoration of broadscale processes and for the recovery of broadly distributed species . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

Biological approaches to restoration always are preferred over engineered solutions. In fact, instream channel rehabilitation projects should be undertaken in a limited fashion and considered only when a particular habitat limitation poses a high near-term risk to aquatic species. In all cases, ecological restoration efforts also should be undertaken to address the habitat limitation over the long-term. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

IV-14. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider watershed restoration a part of ecological restoration.

The focus of watershed restoration must be ecological restoration, not simple rehabilitation . . . . Nature can slowly restore watershed health if the remaining healthier habitats within a watershed are protected, the riparian and upland areas are restored, and the streams are permitted to reconnect with their floodplains and migrate. To be most effective, restoration should begin in the headwaters of a watershed and move downstream and outward to reconnect habitats and promote repopulation of native species. However, if the system is cut off by downstream passage problems then these may need to be reconnected first. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

The goal of watershed restoration must be the re-establishment of stream and watershed ecosystem processes, not the creation of specific habitat types. (Preservation/conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

IV-15. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forets should address restoration compliance issues.

The legacy effects from past and present logging and road building – increasing water temperature and sediment in the South Fork Clearwater River – go well beyond the natural range of variability that a water body of this size would typically exhibit. This watershed has had too much logging and too many roads; it desperately needs to be cleaned up and restored. Therefore, the Tribe urges the forests to use the forest plan revision process as a vehicle for setting long-term management direction to comply with and implement the TMDL (total maximum daily load of sediment), and restore this watershed for future generations. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Another important issue that the Forest Service has been slow to address is the restoration and protection of rivers, streams and other riparian areas affected by domestic livestock grazing on federal lands. Idaho State has issued a long list of water quality degraded streams under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act on the two forests. Addressing roads, grazing and other impacts in a comprehensive conservation strategy would contribute greatly to meeting obligations to improve the quality of these degraded streams. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR 3869)

We recommend that the draft environmental impact statement describe how the restoration priorities may or may not overlap with streams identified on the 303(d) list of streams within the forests. It should also discuss how restoration will potentially affect 303(d) listed streams and the overall beneficial effects expected to the watershed from the proposed restoration. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

Soils Management

IV-16. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider soil restoration, productivity and fertility.

The effects of fire intensities on soil fertility have not been explained to the public in this area. Other disturbances on soils are not usually considered in management. An intense and detailed soil map is needed and ground verified to better understand the consequences of activities. Mitigation for past soil impacts needs to be explored for restoration. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

I would like to suggest a stronger emphasis on maintaining and/or restoring soil ecosystem function rather than merely soil productivity. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 5438)

IV-17. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should address the effects of motorized recreation on erosive soils.

Both the Clearwater and the Nez Perce National Forests are well known for their erosive soils. The Forest Service should evaluate the presence of mass wasting and highly erodible soils and how those soils are impacted by motorized recreation. Motorized recreation should be banned in areas where soil stability or productivity will be adversely impacted by such use. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

Biological Elements

Species Viability

IV-18. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should preserve biodiversity.

Biodiversity may be a critical consideration for new projects, major construction or when special habitats (i.e., wetlands, threatened and endangered species habitat) will be affected. The state of the art for this issue is changing rapidly. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

The concept behind the representation strategy is that the best way to maximize preservation of biodiversity is to develop a network of reserves that includes every species. There are four separate analytical components to the assessment . . . . The first is habitat that includes both physical and biological habitats. The second is species richness for native terrestrial vertebrate species and the third incorporates hotspots of rarity and endemism. The fourth element is an aquatic assessment that includes measures for habitat vulnerability, aquatic integrity and fish species diversity. This type of deliberate approach to biodiversity protection represents a shift from the traditional "ad hoc" approach to land protection. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

Existing conservation areas, like designated wilderness, protect higher proportions of areas occurring at higher elevations. When roadless areas are added to the current conservation areas, the increase in the percentage of representation for each elevation range is quite high, in some cases 100%. Representation is most prominent at mid- to higher-elevation ranges. Protection of those areas for conservation purposes contributes significantly to the maintenance of native biodiversity. This is important because these are among the last remnants of biologically productive lands that have not been significantly altered through settlements, logging and road construction . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

Wildlife and Fish Management

IV-19. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should be managed for wildlife and fisheries.

Over the years, it has become apparent that the primary roles by which the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests serve the public's interest are geared towards fisheries and wildlife. While logging is likely to continue to play a role in the area, the forests would be best served by embedding such a realization in the plan revisions.
(Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

FISHERIES

The aquatic priority map shows the results of the aquatic assessment for the Clearwater and Nez Perce geographic areas. The assessment is based on three elements: integrity as a function of diversion density and water quality; vulnerability as a function of representation and erosion potential; and fish diversity. The results of the aquatic assessment highlight the importance of this region for fisheries as well as of the roadless areas within the region. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

WILDLIFE

Managing the forests for wildlife habitat is very important. I believe that good habitat starts with timber harvest and then burning where the timber harvest has taken place, it has worked

for many years on private and state lands. I believe that burning usable timber is a big waste of resources, and that timber harvest will create many needed jobs. I don't like to see my resources wasted. You can harvest timber without destroying the harvested area and streams. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 2099)

Wildlife MUST be given top priority because they can't protect themselves from us. We have already lost too much wildlife habitat. (Individual, HAYWARD, CA – 43)

IV-20. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should protect wildlife.

The diversity of wildlife found in the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests needs to be protected. Not that many areas in the lower 48 states support such a wide representation of wildlife, including wolves, Canada lynx, elk and mountain lions. (Individual, WEST HARTFORD, CT – 4543)

Wildlife is not well managed on the CNF and NPNF under the old forest plans. Viability of species is not addressed in the original plans. Many species are not directly managed on the forests, including non-game species. Idaho Fish and Game made extensive comments on the original forest plan on wildlife impacts. Many of the Fish and Game concerns were not adequately addressed. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Mule deer numbers are gradually giving way to the more adaptable white tail. The mule deer needs a wild setting to survive in the numbers essential to a minimal critical mass. We cannot wait until we are down to our last two mule deer to suddenly wake up and realize that we have wasted a trillion dollars in value to generate a few thousand dollars in one-time profits. (Individual, UNKNOWN – 5435)

IV-21. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the potential for conflict between people and wildlife.

Prevent the intrusion into these lands by man/man's influence. Top predators, as natural members of an ecosystem, have an inherent right to their own domain. When man is present, there consistent arises concern for wildlife/man conflict. (Individual, GLENWOOD, NM – 3169)

IV-22. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should provide for adequate fisheries and wildlife "structures."

A more complex stream habitat can be achieved by having dredges "digging" deeper holes in select locations to provide the fish more and better habitat. (Individual, EAGLE, ID – 5211)

The Environmental Protection Agency is particularly interested in seeing the plan revisions and environmental impact statement address certain areas. Following is a list of issues we believe to be important. Retain adequate snags and woody debris for wildlife habitat and necessary ecological structure and functioning (e.g., soil productivity, nutrient cycling, etc.). (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive Species

IV-23. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should provide for protection and identification of threatened, endangered and sensitive species and critical habitats.

The Environmental Protection Agency is particularly interested in seeing the plan revisions and environmental impact statement address certain areas. Following is a list of issues we believe to be important. Protection of population strongholds and key refugia for Endangered

Species Act listed or proposed species and narrow endemic populations. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

Since the first forest plans were approved, several species of fish and wildlife and plants have been listed under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act within the Clearwater Basin. The new forest plans need to specify how they will identify critical habitat and protect it in support of the recovery efforts. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

We trust the forests will protect known populations of plants that are federally protected. We would like to see the plan include efforts to systematically search for and identify other populations of protected plants. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID -3867)

IV-24. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should rebuild anadromous fish populations.

The exercise of the Tribe's treaty-reserved fishing rights is presently limited by the need to rebuild anadromous fish populations. Although there are many causes for this population decline, removal of vegetation, soil degradation, and alteration of watershed hydrology caused by logging, mining, road construction, water withdrawals, and grazing on the national forests have contributed to the decline in salmon survival in freshwater habitats. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

It is equally important to recognize that colonization of new habitat and re-establishment of populations of native salmonids is apparently very rare under contemporary habitat, climatic and demographic conditions. Assuming no imminent reversal of any of these 3 factors, the loss or extinction of any single stream-specific breeding populations must be considered an irreversible loss and irretrievable commitment of resources. The long-term viability and potential for recovery of the species can only be maintained, therefore, if the persistence of each extant population can be assured, i.e., that the range-wide distribution of the species is not further diminished through loss of local breeding populations.
(Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

Management Indicator Species

IV-25. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should carefully consider selection of management indicator species.

The Fish and wildlife Service supports the forests' proposals to update the list of management indicator species (MIS). Careful selection of MIS species is critical to facilitate effective monitoring of impacts of forest management activities. The service also supports maintenance of and timely updates to the list of sensitive species. Proactive management aimed at protection of sensitive species such as northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentiles*), fisher (*Martes pennanti*) and wolverine is important to ensure their conservation and avoid the potential need to protect them through listing. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game fully supports the proposed action to select better management indicator species. Selection of appropriate indicator species is necessary to measure the outcomes of forest management strategies. More importantly, the known habitat needs of chosen indicator species will, in most instances, direct the strategy and selection of management actions needed to achieve desired future conditions. (State Government – LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

We also urge the Forest Service to continue to use elk as a management indicator species. The failure to bring this species back to former population levels should not be used as an

excuse to remove them from primary consideration. By alienating hunters you would be eliminating one group that is a huge advocate for forest health. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

It should be a goal to remove risks to the viability of aquatic species, not to remove aquatic species from the management indicator species (MIS). All threatened and endangered fish species should remain as MIS species, and the forest should consider adding amphibian populations to the list because of their unique habitat requirements. Especially given the lack of information, the best indicator of management impacts is the presence or absence of species. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IV-26. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should select management indicator species that reflect changes on the landscape.

Management indicator species (MIS) should be selected based on their ability to actually reflect changes on the landscape. Birds, reptiles, mammals, and amphibians that specifically utilize distinct habitats or successional stages should be considered for MIS. Other species, i.e., elk, deer, and black bear, that have a significant status in our society, yet are generalists in terms of habitat usage, could be afforded some other status in the revised forest plans, but should not be included as a MIS. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

IV-27. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should explain why the forests have rejected the current management indicator species list.

The forests are proposing to update management indicator species (MIS) to more accurately reflect the effects of management under the rationale that the current MIS are inadequate to show management effects. The Tribe questions this rationale because both forests have done little or no monitoring of wildlife MIS. Before updating the MIS list, the forests should explain with data the basis for rejecting the current list of MIS. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

IV-28. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should select management indicator species that reflect the health of old growth.

The choice of management indicator species must reflect the true health of old growth species (e.g., marten, lynx, fisher, pileated woodpecker, etc.) and, once chosen the management indicator species must be faithfully and consistently monitored. Although the proposal speaks about management indicator species for terrestrial ecosystems, it does not mention them in the section on watersheds and aquatic ecosystems. Management indicator species also need to be specified for those systems (e.g., Coeur d'Alene salamander, Idaho giant salamander, westslope cutthroat, butt trout, etc.). (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 136)

Habitat

IV-29. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should identify and protect wildlife habitat.

Please continue to protect and identify wildlife habitat for all native species of plants and animals to maintain functioning and thriving ecosystems. These ecosystems will offer the human species clean water, better fisheries, big and small game animal security and temporary refuge from the population centers. (Individual, THOMPSON FALLS, MT – 10758)

We know that breaking up habitat can lead to species destruction. Runoff from roads destroys and pollutes watersheds. Native peoples continue to hunt these wilderness areas and should be allowed to do so as their ancestors did for hundreds of years. (Individual, BUFFALO, NY – 5561)

The Clearwater Elk Recovery Team recommends retaining land management designations such as C8S lands on the Clearwater National Forest and types 14, 15, and 16 lands on the Nez Perce National Forest throughout the applicable geographic areas listed in each forest. The above lands are managed for big-game winter and summer range. Those lands, skillfully managed mechanically, can improve forage and reduce heavy fuel loading prior to the introduction of prescribed fire. Temporary roads decommissioned after use can continue the roadless status of those land management designations. (Preservation/Conservation, SAGLE, ID – 4896)

IV-30. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider landscape connectivity for wildlife habitat.

Landscape connectivity has become a vital component in conservation science and land management planning, especially as human activities continue to reduce the size of natural areas and isolate them from one another. Significant consequences of those activities include isolation of populations of native species and disruptions of their natural movements, dispersal patterns, and gene flows. To sustain these vital processes and thus help species survive, it is imperative to maintain landscape connections across a landscape. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IV-31. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should protect habitat for elk.

The elk herd in the Clearwater River/Kelly Creek drainage almost disappeared long before the re-introduction of the wolf. About 15 years ago, this area held one of the largest concentrations of elk n the U.S. The major change is the loss of habitat. The size of any big game herd is limited primarily by the amount of wintering area available. (Individual, UNKNOWN, 5435)

I recently met with local sportsmen and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to discuss their concerns regarding the decline in forest health on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests, and its impact on Idaho's elk population and habitat. Concerns were expressed during the meeting that while the Forest Service does a satisfactory job of restoring and protecting fish habitat in our national forests, the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests have not made the same advances in wildlife protection. (Federal Elected Official, WASHINGTON, DC – 10875)

Vegetation Management

IV-32. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should define baselines used to define ecosystem goals.

In setting your "ecosystem goals" in your forest plan you need to use the long-term health and vigor of our forests as your baseline. You state that ecological principles will drive your management decisions but have not stated the defined baselines for these principles. (Individual, ELK CITY – 4905)

Vegetation needs to be the base component of any forest plan – over fish and water. Without healthy vegetation, both fish and water will suffer. (Individual, ELK CITY, ID – 4905)

IV-33. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider natural ranges of variability to benefit forest health.

The proposal seems ambiguous about ways to understand and manage for the health of the forest; on the one hand speaking about "historic ranges of vegetative composition and structure, natural processes and disturbances" (p. 8), but referring to "natural or desired ranges of variability" and the "range of natural conditions and processes" (p. 11).
Using natural ranges of variability and vegetation is more credible for several reasons: (1) the historic ranges which have been used have been limited to periods of time that are too short to realistically measure the true range of historic variability over long periods of time and condition (studies using geologic evidence indicate that previously much warmer, drier periods prevailed in the west, which reinforces the notion that our ideas of historic range are not expansive enough); (2) the very real problem of global warming has made it impossible to re-create conditions which have historically existed; therefore, we must rely on what is naturally possible on the planet today.
Throughout the section describing geographic areas in the proposal, there are goals to restore whitebark pine and ponderosa pine. Although these two species may be indicative of a particular historic period and setting, the true health of the forest needs to take into account a wider, longer view of the natural ranges of climate and vegetation before deciding to emphasize specific species to achieve a particular management objective (i.e., commodity extraction and restoring elk habitat) at the expense of the larger ecosystem. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 136)

The Environmental Protection Agency supports maintaining and restoring large, native, late-seral overstory trees and forest composition and structure within ranges of historic natural variability (e.g., ponderosa pine, western larch, western white pine). We note that historic range of variability (HRV) concepts may be more relevant at broad scales rather than site-specific scales. The revision to the forest plans and associated environmental impact statement should consider vegetation succession regimes (early, mid, late seral) relate to historic ranges at the broad landscape scale in development of revised management direction. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

Reduce the number of trees per acre to the historical norms and maintain that relationship through the years via logging projects. Continually remove the dead and dying trees from the forest to reduce the risk of wildfire. (Individual, LEWISTON, ID – 34)

IV-34. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should protect old growth forests.

Protections for old growth forests are necessary to ensure that these areas are adequately represented on the forests and protected over the life of the revised forest plans. The forests should adopt clear definitions for various forest/habitat types, using the old growth forest types of the Northern Region (Greet et al, 1992) as a basis. While the desire to move away from rigid standards and guidelines is obvious, the level of interest and strong feelings over the management of old growth forests warrants strong guidance. Old growth forests are important for the conservation of biodiversity, for research and for sustainability of forest functions and processes. As such, minimum standards for the retention and protection of old growth is both warranted and necessary. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

Lands outside the forest boundaries have often not been managed for the late-seral or old growth component, so Forest Service lands may need to contribute more to the late-seral component to compensate for the loss of this component on other land ownerships within an ecoregion. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

The western red cedar and mixed cedar forests of the Clearwater are among the most critical habitat types for preservation of the region's biodiversity and currently have no protection in the Northern Rockies ecoregion. This forest type has also been the most heavily exploited historically as it is found at more accessible lower elevations the large trees are valued as a commodity. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

As old growth quantity and quality has decreased on other land ownerships in the Clearwater ecosystem, the Forest Service needs to protect more old growth to protect the integrity of the overall forest ecosystem. The state of Idaho has publicly said it is liquidating all its old growth. Industrial timber lands have clearly decreased old growth on their lands so the Clearwater/Nez Perce need to consider how to mitigate these losses. Perhaps the Clearwater/Nez Perce need to increase old growth to provide for at-risk species dependent on old growth by managing more land for replacement old growth. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Where there are roads, there is logging and there is much beautiful old growth forest that should be protected as much as possible. (Individual, WAUKEGAN, IL – 2200)

The quality as well as the quantity should be considered in protecting old growth. For example, old growth along a road is of less quality than a stand in a roadless area. Quality should be defined by scientifically sound factors that take into account its value to wildlife, natural functions and processes. In designating old growth stands, consider the edge effect from natural and manmade openings including roads, in order to evaluate quality of reserve blocks. Replacement old growth areas should be designated in old growth management units that do not have 10 percent old growth. Replacement old growth should take into account present age, habitat type, and proximity to other old growth stands and usefulness to old growth dependent wildlife. Replacement old growth is intended for future old growth needs and should not be cut or "moved" in the future. The amount of replacement old growth needs to be greater than the minimum 10 percent due to possible future loss to fire, disease and blow down. Although it once was believed that old growth forests could maintain themselves perpetually, it is now recognized that old growth disappears over time due to natural processes (Rebertus et al. 1992). Furthermore, recent research suggests that the amount of required old growth may be too low. Lesica (1995) stated that the Northern Region of the Forest Service's general goal of maintaining 10% of forests as old growth may extirpate some species. This is based on his estimate that 20-50 percent of low and many mid-elevation forests were in old growth condition prior to European settlement. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Active Treatment

IV-35. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should increase the level of management activity on the forests.

The current level of management activity on the Nez Perce Forest is simply not getting the job done. On a landscape level, the treatment of 1,600 acres per year (on the Nez Perce Forest) does not begin to address the problem of forest health. Nor will the public accept the "natural" burning of hundreds of thousands of acres each year. (Timber Industry, ELK CITY, ID – 3159)

IV-36. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should harvest timber to promote the health of these national forests.

Watershed conditions are tied to prevailing geology, soil and vegetation condition as influenced by past fire occurrence and human activities. We agree active management is

required to treat degraded watersheds. However, we get the sense that forest managers feel the current level of timber activity is about "right." The PA appears to be an attempt to solidify this direction. To successfully deal with the challenge of current forest health conditions, the widest array of tools must be available to the land manager. We are concerned the PA suggests ever increasing layers of restrictions and somehow nature and fire will solve forest health problem. The opposite should be true. It will take innovative intervention and creative thinking to deal with the magnitude of the forest health problem on the two forests. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IV-37. the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should use a balance of fire and timber harvest to promote healthy forests.

We agree with your overall focus on management for healthy landscapes and watersheds. We recognize, and support the concept that outputs will be a result of sound ecosystem management practices. If this is accomplished through a proper, consistent, scientifically-supported balance between active fire management and timber harvest, we are not concerned with ASQ (allowable sale quantity) targets. More timber will be available to our local industry than we could currently convert. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 57)

Cultivation

IV-38. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should plant trees to address many problems.

One of the best ways to counteract the climate change and pollution caused by using fossil fuels is to preserve and plant as many trees as possible. I come from a midwestern farming family, so I know that biomass energy and biofuels really can solve many of the world's energy problems. It's time to "outsource" the petroleum and coal cartels and do what's right for America's health and safety. (Individual, FREDERICKSBURG, VA – 5564)

Noxious Weeds

IV-39. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the impact of forestry practices and the spread of noxious weeds.

The type of forestry practices used can still play a large role in noxious weed expansion. Clearcutting, stand-regeneration, or even-aged silvicultural prescriptions alter the microclimate in openings and reduce native competition and thus can encourage the establishment of noxious weeds. Ground-based hauling systems disturb soils and promote weed expansion to a greater degree than helicopter or skyline logging systems. Constructing new temporary or permanent roads for the purpose of accessing timber also greatly accelerates noxious weed expansion. In addition, the use of contaminated water in water trucks for dust abatement, the use of contaminated straw for erosion control, and the use of contaminated soil and rock for roadwork has also contributed to noxious weed expansion. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

IV-40. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider how to control or eradicate the spread of noxious weeds and their impacts.

The Environmental Protection Agency is particularly interested in seeing the plan revisions and environmental impact statement address certain areas. Following is a list of issues we believe to be important. Identify noxious weeds/exotic plants; discuss the magnitude and occurrence of the weed infestations, and strategies for prevention, early detection, and control procedures for weed management. Promote integrated weed management, with mitigation to

avoid herbicide transport to surface or ground waters. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

Idaho State Department of Agriculture is pleased that noxious weeds has been identified as a management revision topic to be addressed in the proposed EIS. Management of noxious and invasive weeds within the Clearwater National Forest (CWF) and Nez Perce National Forest (NPF) must be an aggressive effort. The increase of weed infestations merit the actions described in order to limit the spread of these weeds into more pristine areas of the CWF and NPF. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 35)

. . . PLAY (Public Land Access Year-round) supports an effective noxious weed program that does not further hinder public access. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

GRAZING

. . . cattle that are released on grazing allotments or horses used on public lands can transport undigested weed seed and spread it in their manure. The Forest Service may want to discuss the option of requiring use of certified weed-free hay in permits or projects. Another option for preventing the introduction of noxious weeds is to require cattle and horses, especially those coming from areas with noxious weeds, to be penned and fed weed-free hay for several days prior to being released on public lands. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) are a major source of the spread of invasive weeds. OHVs both prepare sites for weed establishment by reducing native vegetation and distributing weed seeds to these sites. The forest plans should comply with Executive Order 13112 by identifying the threats to the landscape from recreation-related invasive species by adopting management actions that will reduce the likelihood of spread, and by instituting monitoring practices along designated routes to catch invasions early. Require weed-cleaning stations at parking areas for OHV users, so users can hose off their vehicles before and after use. In addition, the Forest Service should promote responsible OHV use by asking users to clean their vehicles at car washes before and after every use. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 70)

WEED-FREE FORAGE

The Forest Service, working with the local weed coordinating communities, should develop stations . . . to sell certified weed-free hay to anyone using the backcountry with livestock. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

IV-41. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider various treatment methods for the control or eradication of noxious weeds.

All treatments need to be followed with a plan that prevents weeds from reinvading by restoring native habitat. Improve early detection and treatment strategies as well. Without adequate long-term monitoring and follow-up, treatments will be ineffective and a waste of money and resources. For example, if the Forest Service begins a spraying program and then runs out of funding before achieving the restoration step, the adverse effects will include added chemicals to the soil, stressed native plant populations, increased water quality risks, and then untreated weed-seed beds. The long-term presence of noxious weed-seed beds will necessitate a long-term commitment to each area. Biological controls can b e a useful tool in certain situations but have inherent risks and proven failures. Herbicides have a role but the Forest Service needs to thoroughly address concerns to human health, water quality, fish, wildlife, and native plants. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

Chemical spraying should be given the least priority for controlling weeds because of the potential adverse impacts to water quality and wildlife and human health. Hand pulling of weeds should be preferred over chemical treatments. Biological control can be counterproductive. Recent research around Missoula suggests that bio-control may actually exacerbate problems with knapweed as the knapweed roots are connected, via subsurface fungi, to other plants. This research seems to suggest that bio-control stresses the knapweed, which in turn, stresses the native plants. Much more research is needed before embracing bio-control. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

The Environmental Protection Agency supports integrated weed management (e.g., effective mix of cultural, education and prevention, biological, mechanical, chemical management, etc.); however, we encourage prioritization of management techniques that focus on non-chemical treatments first, with reliance on chemicals (herbicides) being the last resort. Early recognition and control of new infestations is encouraged to stop the spread of the infestation and avoid wider future use of herbicides, which could correspondingly have more adverse impacts on biodiversity, water quality and fisheries. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

We agree that "noxious weed management" is an important topic needing increased attention. We urge you to consider biological control methods, since these methods can be very specific and leave native plants unharmed. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 38)

MECHANICAL CONTROL

If there are noxious weeds that are especially troublesome and pose a greater risk for spread, then instead of using chemicals, I would recommend: (1) removing the cows from the area when the weeds are going to seed; (2) publishing a map of the area in the newspaper and ask the public not to recreate there if possible when the weeds are going to seed; and (3) (even though more costly than chemicals) hand-pulling or digging the weeds. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

IV-42. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider a seeding program to plant where ground has been disturbed.

If sufficient vegetation is killed during ground-disturbing activities (e.g., by prescribed burning) it may warrant re-vegetation efforts. We believe that re-vegetation (reseeding with native grass mix) should be expanded to seed any site within the control area where the vegetation density is low enough to allow re-infestation or introduction of other noxious weeds, or erosion. The goal of the seeding program should be to establish the sustainability of the area. Where no native, rapid cover seed source exists, we recommend using a grass mixture that does not include aggressive grasses such as smooth brome, thereby allowing native species to eventually prevail. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

IV-43. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the impacts of noxious weeds on wildlife.

The spread of noxious weeds across range and forest lands has greatly accelerated in the last 17 years since the existing plans were approved. Control of noxious weeds is a critical issue for the plan revision to address. Noxious weed infestations are compromising wildlife habitats across the forests, including designated wilderness areas. Noxious weeds are out-competing native vegetation that serves as wildlife forage and riparian filters, and even rare botanical species. The Fish and Wildlife Service fully supports the development of weed management objectives and standards in the revised plans. Weed management objectives

need to be integrated with fire management objectives, as fire can exacerbate the spread of noxious weeds in certain circumstances. We agree the goal of weed management should be to restore native vegetation to a resilient status that will limit weed invasion. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

The Tribe is concerned about the present and future impacts of noxious weeds. The low elevation, drier slopes within the Lochsa, Selway, and South Fork of the Clearwater Rivers are the areas under greatest threat to become occupied by noxious weeds. It is the grasses and forbs found on these sites and at higher elevations that provide sufficient nutrition for the elk herds to regain condition lost through the winter. There is literature, documenting elk eating spotted knapweed and additional research documenting elk avoiding it if neighboring foraging areas have no knapweed. To the extent noxious weeds interfere with elk obtaining their nutritional needs, weeds are diminishing the forests' abilities to support elk herds in the desired quantities. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Fire and Fuels Management

Wildland Fire

IV-44. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should suppress fires to protect timber.

It appears throughout the proposed action that the solution to the fire exclusion problem is fire inclusion rather than logging, and I disagree with that pre-determined direction. We should suppress fire on our national forests to protect a valuable timber commodity that could be utilized by the entire nation, and to prevent the harmful effects of wildfire to air and water quality, soils, wildlife, and noxious weed introduction. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 3767)

Role of Fire in Ecosystems

IV-45. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider natural disturbance processes, including fire.

We (Environmental Protection Agency) support management decisions that will be based on understanding and consideration of natural disturbance processes (e.g., fire, insects, disease), including the intensity, frequency, and magnitude of disturbance regimes. We recommend that the forest plan revisions and environmental impact statements also consider ecosystem processes (such as the flows and cycles of nutrients and water) and their dynamics in developing revised direction for vegetation and fuels management. Methods to address competing and unwanted vegetation and fuel loads and fire risk should be evaluated versus water quality, fisheries and wildlife effects. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

IV-46. The Clearwater and Nea Perce Forests should restore fire to roadless and wilderness areas.

The Tribe requests that the forests evaluate the impaces and benefits, of using prescribed burns and naturally-ignited fires in the roadless and wilderness areas respectively, to achieve the burning goal developed by the elk collaborative (group). Further the forests should evaluate if they will need to use prescribed ignitions within the wilderness areas to achieve the goal or if they believe it can be achieved with naturally-ignited fires in the wilderness. We expect the Forest Service analysis to determine if the goal can be achieved without causing impacts violating the Clean Water or Clean Air Act or the Endangered Species Act.

If the forest determines, in their analysis, achieving the burning goal will cause impacts they believe would cause them to violate federal law or adversely impact other resources, the Tribe expects the analysis to determine how many acres of burning (could be) spread over the area described in the elk collaborative burning goal. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

The Tribe believes that the research, the reduction of elk harvest, the population data, and the increased removal of predators with no response from elk herds, all suggests the problem, at least in the roadless and wilderness portions of the forests, is habitat driven. We conclude there needs to be more fire restored to the landscape to manage the habitat in the roadless and wilderness areas. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 387)

IV-47. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider opportunities to allow fire to burn.

(1) As part of introducing fire to the ecosystem, there is an excellent opportunity to let unplanned ignitions burn if they are not near the urban interface and are monitored. I think the plan should require a "let burn" analysis for every unplanned ignition before sending in people on initial attack. (2) What should be done (and not done) where there are private inholdings or private structures that might be in danger should a wildfire erupt? The plan must reference Jack Cohen's research and recommend it be implemented and taught through community education programs. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

We support actions to expand areas where wildfire and prescribed fire are allowed, including in designated wilderness. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

COST-EFFECTIVE

I am concerned about the large emphasis on expensive prescribed burning rather than allowing wild fires to burn naturally. I found it ironic a few years ago when we fiercely fought a fire in the North Fork District and then spent roughly 1 million dollars on a prescribed burn in the same region. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 5438)

The city also supports your change to expand fire use and prescribed fire to more areas of the forest. Your current Forest Service plans provide limited opportunity for fire use which in turn increases the cost of fire suppression and risks to firefighters. We know that fire plays an important role in forest health and wildlife habitat, which in turn, promotes economic development for our region. (City Government, OROFINO, ID – 3281)

POSITIVE IMPACTS

I have worked on burn crews during prescribed burns, and I always marvel at the positive impact fire can have on a landscape. Please continue to use both natural fires and carefully prescribed management fires to help manage these forests for diversity, large wildfire prevention, and ecological management (i.e., non-native species management). (Individual, LAKEVILLE, MN – 5789)

Fire Plans

IV-48. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider climatic change and the potential for fire.

Climatic change will have an increased impact on the forests in the next 15 years. Planning should include anticipated effects it will have on the forests in terms of fire, vegetation and changes in wildlife habitat. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

IV-49. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the approach to fire management in wilderness.

POSTPONE CHANGES

It is our understanding that existing guidance already allows for management-ignited fire in wilderness, where wildland fire use cannot accomplish resource management goals. Why you seek to update direction on this issue is unclear. It is certain to generate significant controversy for limited gain. Instead, we encourage the forests to consider postponing any change in wilderness management until specific projects arise to warrant such a change in course. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

PRESCRIBED FIRE NOT COMPATIBLE WITH WILDERNESS

We assume that only wildland fire will be used in designated wilderness, since prescribed fire would seem to be incompatible with the Wilderness Act. It stated that "historic ranges of vegetative composition and structure" will be used to guide these efforts. We urge caution in this approach, since the conditions of the last 200 years may not be completely relevant to the future. First, during the last 200 years we were coming out of a "little ice age" (cooler conditions than normal). Second, we are now entering a period of unquestioned global warming. Hearing the predictions that we will no longer have any glaciers left by 2050 really drives home this point. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 38)

I do not agree with the use of prescribed fire in wilderness. I **firmly** believe that human ignition with the intent of starting a small forest fire violates the Wilderness Act. If this is even being contemplated, I strongly suggest that the revised plan state which way it will go . . . prescribed fire in wilderness or not. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

IV-50. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider where "wildland fire use" would be appropriate.

It is important to develop the opportunities for WFU (wildland fire use) outside of roadless, wilderness or other undeveloped areas. Options for WFU should be expanded to include roaded areas, where logging may be permitted. Especially since logging is being emphasized as a means to simulate the effects of natural disturbance, where WFU can accomplish the same goals it should at least be considered. Expanding the WFU zone to areas where logging could be carried out, would reduce costs (both planning and suppression related), increase efficiency, and restore natural disturbance regimes. Further, simply authorizing the application of WFU in a given area does not prevent a suppression response when deemed appropriate. On the other hand, designating areas as suppression zones does prevent WFU, and limits the options of fire managers. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

Identifying the specific conditions under which WFU (wildland fire use) might be appropriate requires detailed scientific and spatial analyses. Even in remote areas . . . forest conditions, weather and wind factors may preclude the safe use of fire. WFU is only appropriate where the results of fire are likely to produce resource benefits. Generally, this requires a determination that fire behavior will be natural or historically typical for the location. These detailed analyses do not need to be part of the forest planning process, but the plan must provide sufficient latitude to allow fire planners to identify the appropriate places for WFU in the subsequent fire management plan. Such latitude can be provided by assigning the maximum area to the fire use emphasis zone. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

Fire management in the FUEZ (fire use emphasis zone) should seek to maintain the natural character of the area, even in the roaded portion, and minimize impacts to aquatic, terrestrial, or watershed resources. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

Fire management must be a part of the management of public lands. Areas managed for their natural values often benefit from recurring wildfires and may be harmed by a policy of fire suppression. Long-term suppression of small wildfires may build up conditions making occasional catastrophic conflagrations inevitable. Every fire should be monitored. Naturally occurring fires should be allowed to burn in areas where periodic burns are considered beneficial. In areas where fire would pose an unreasonable threat to property, human life or important biological communities, efforts should be made to reduce dangerous fuel accumulations through a program of planned ignitions. New human developments should be discouraged in areas of high fire risk. When fires do occur that pose an unacceptable threat to property or human life, prompt efforts should be undertaken for fire control. In areas included or proposed for the national wilderness preservation system, fires should be managed primarily by the forces of nature. Minimal exceptions to this provision may occur where these areas contain ecosystems altered by previous fire suppression, or where they are too small or too close to human habitation to permit the idea of natural fire regimes. Limited planned ignitions should be a management option only in those areas where there are dangerous fuel accumulations, with a resultant threat of catastrophic fires, or where they are needed to restore the natural ecosystem. Land managers should prepare comprehensive fire management plans. These plans should consider the role of natural fire, balancing the ecological benefits of wildfire against its potential threats to natural resources, to watershed, and to significant scenic and recreational values of wildlands. Methods used to control or prevent fires are often more damaging to the land than fire. Fire control plans must implement minimum-impact fire suppression techniques appropriate to the specific area. Steps should be taken to rehabilitate damage caused by fighting fires. Land managers should rely on natural re-vegetation in parks, designated or proposed wilderness areas, and other protected lands. Where artificial re-vegetation is needed, a mixture of appropriate native species suited to the site should be used. The occurrence of a fire does not justify salvage logging or road building in areas that are otherwise inappropriate for timber harvesting. Salvage logging is not permitted in designated wilderness areas or national park system units. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 10862)

IV-51. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop a landscape-scale fire management strategy.

The Wilderness Society recommends that the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests develop a landscape-scale, three zone fire management strategy that reflects these three situations. The first zone, the “Community Fire Planning Zone” (CFPZ), occurs immediately adjacent to communities and is managed for their protection. The second zone, the “Restoration Planning Zone,” exists beyond the CFPZ for some distance (a few miles) and is managed to minimize natural fire (through suppression or containment) but also to restore conditions that are resilient to inevitable fires. Finally, beyond those zones exists a zone in which the full range of management responses to fire (from suppression to allowing natural fire) are possible but in which a priority is placed on wildland fire use for resource benefit (WFU). This area is called the “Fire Use Emphasis Zone” (FUEZ) to reflect the preference for WFU when conditions allow, subject to prearranged plans and the appropriate management response determined by managers at the time the fire starts. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IV-52. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should work with adjacent federal land managers to ensure consistency in wildland fire use.

The forests should work with adjacent federal land mangers, i.e., the Lolo, Bitterroot, Payette and Idaho Panhandle National Forests to improve consistency with WFU (wildland fire use) zones. The forests should also investigate opportunities to coordinate WFU and prescribed fire activities with the Bureau of Land Management. Most of the aforementioned land managers are in the process of revising their land and resource management plans. As such, now is the critical time to improve consistency. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

IV-53. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should evaluate the impacts of fire and fuels management on resources.

The EPA is particularly interested in seeing the plan revision and EIS address certain areas. Following is a list of issues we believe to be important. Evaluation of water quality, fisheries, wildlife impacts of fuels management to reduce fire risk versus risk of and effects of potential wildfire. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

We recommend the use of minimum impact suppression tactics . . . when suppression is the appropriate management response (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

I would urge fire protection in steep riparian areas and to protect old-growth timber and biodiversity that may have been reduced through human development. (Individual, PHOENIXVILLE, PA – 4892)

IV-54. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the effects of fire on recreation.

Increased fire use: Great idea, but it should not mean decreased opportunities for the public to recreate in the forests or users to make their living. Before adding more fire use areas to the forest an aggressive program needs to be developed and implemented for limiting fire spread into unacceptable areas such as campgrounds, scenic or historical attractions, and major travel corridors. Free burning fires should have little effect on their use or function. You need to have unassigned areas to relocate displaced outfitters for 1-3 seasons during and after a major fire use event. Activities associated with special celebrations such as the Lewis and Clark celebration should receive special attention to protect them from interruption by fire use. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5434)

Smoke Management

IV-55. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider thee effects of smoke from prescribed burns.

In the past, our community has suffered the effect of smoke settling in our valley location for extended periods of time, and coming from either escaped prescribed fire treatment, or from wildfires originating on federal lands. These events had a negative impact on our economy, and were a threat to the health of our citizens. (Business, LEWISTON, ID – 103)

Wildland Urban Interface

IV-56. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forest should consider fire management and the wildland urban interface.

We recommend emphasizing fuels management in wildland urban interface (WUI) areas and areas of high or severe fire risk (since thresholds for acceptable environmental impacts

around WUIs and areas of severe fire risk may be higher). (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

The new forest plan must provide guidance for fire mangers concerning what they should do to protect structures in the urban interface. . . . The new plans must direct the manager to use Jack Cohen's research findings: clear the fine fuels (twigs, low limbs, dry grass, brush, and Christmas-tree-sized trees) within about 200 feet of the house and remove the wood pile lying against the house and (replace) the cedar roof. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The community wildfire protection plan (CWPP) process, described in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, provides an excellent opportunity for citizens and agency managers to work together to achieve common goals for the CFPZ (community fire protection zone). The Forest Service should be part of every CWPP process involving communities whose CFPZ overlaps with the national forest. Where these processes have not already begun, we encourage the Forest Service to take the lead in pulling stakeholders together to develop these plans. To help facilitate this engagement, we provide these comments "A Handbook for Wildland Urban Interface Communities: Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan," developed by the Society of American Foresters, the National Association of State Foresters, the National Association of Counties, and the Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress. This handbook is useful to begin framing the process. More specific guidance is forthcoming from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, due for release in February 2005. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION ZONES

While there may occasionally be situations that require extension of the CFPZ (community fire protection zone) . . ., we encourage the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests generally to employ a CFPZ up to one-half mile beyond communities. If there are situations where extending the width of the CRPZ helps improve community safety, it may fairly be asked here, "Why limit the width of the CFPZ at all?" The answer is that management for community protection may compromise other resource objectives. Treating fuels to protect homes may result in unnatural forest conditions that compromise wildlife habitat, water quality, and aesthetics. It is therefore important to limit the CFPZ to the area where it will do the most good to protect homes. Narrowing the width of the CFPZ also helps to focus limited resources (money, personnel) where they will have the greatest impact. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

SHIFT FOCUS AWAY FROM URBAN INTERFACE

Shift the focus of fire use away from the WUI (wildland urban interface) to sustaining large ecosystems. The two forests have large expanses of lodgepole pine that are long past due for treatment. These large expanses need to be broken into more manageable size areas. The focus on WUI has set the fuel treatment program back and efforts need to focus on the general forest where you can make a difference. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5434)

IV-57. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider "fire proofing" some areas.

I see a great opportunity to fire proof a lot of areas. An example would be from Moscow to Elk River and beyond. This area lends itself to building fire breaks every so often to break up this large area of overly dense second-growth forest. Much of this could be cut-to-length and forwarder-type logging and could clean this forest and even convert areas to ponderosa pine that is now Douglas fir and grand fir. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 4379)

Timber Resource Management

IV-58. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should harvest timber to meet vegetative goals.

BETTER THAN BURNING

I believe timber harvest is the better choice to achieve vegetative goals across all the geographic areas. 1. It is more precise, deliberate, and controlled than fire. If the protection of riparian habitats, water quality, and soil productivity are forest-wide goals, then the precision of logging is the proper choice to avoid the negative impacts of large wildfires or escaped prescribed fires. 2. Local communities depend on a reasonable and sustainable flow of logs for their economic survival. 3. There is a vast amount of acres of vegetation that need treatment to return them to a more historic condition. Fire managers face an extremely narrow window of opportunity that allows them to burn safely, and will never be able to treat a reasonable amount of acres to even begin to correct the imbalance. Logging does not face that narrow prescription in order to achieve the desired outcome. 4. Smoke and poor air quality are already huge public issues within the impact areas of these forests, both from grass field burning and forest fires. Expecting to add more smoke with additional burning is unreasonable. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 3767)

FOR FOREST HEALTH

My priority for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests is to manage them for forest health. To that end, I'd like to see the following done: Currently, the growth and even the mortality exceeds the harvest. At the very least, logging should match the mortality. (Individual, LEWISTON, ID – 34)

IV-59. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the economic benefits of using forest resources.

The precision of mechanical treatment is necessary and should be regarded with equal emphasis. Thoughtfully designed mechanical treatments in the form of timber sales, stewardship contracts or other yet-to-be invented vehicles have the advantage of utilizing usable products and provide a revenue flow to the U.S. Treasury and the economy. (Timber Association, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

Suitability

IV-60. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should provide an appropriate suitable timber base.

We are particularly concerned over how suitability will be treated in riparian areas and roadless areas. Neither of these categories in and of themselves should negatively impact suitability classification. We suggest you conservatively follow national direction to maintain the maximum amount of suitable base. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 57)

We do not support your consideration of significantly reducing the suitable base, nor do we understand your rationale. It would seem to accomplish your land management objectives, you would retain the option to actively manage stands in need of harvest wherever and whenever possible, especially in light of the need to mechanically reduce fuel loading prior to the increased aggressive use of fire as a land management tool. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 57)

The major issue we have identified here is the definition of suitability: What are the criteria used to consider lands suitable for commodity extraction? When asked this basic question a lay person is likely to consider all lands outside of allocated wilderness as suitable. (Place-Based Group, OROFINO, ID – 3282)

We encourage you to emphasize several of the points mentioned on page 6 under "Draft Analysis of the Management Situation," specifically designation of suitable timber land and allowable sale quantity. (Place-Based Group, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3848)

IV-61. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consistently apply suitability criteria.

Thoroughly consider a consistent application of suitability criteria. This is particularly true in inventoried roadless areas. The revised plan is a projection into the future; land managers must not be constrained by historic methods of treatment or results from a different era. Logging and milling technology is advancing at a rapid rate. We expect the preponderance of the highly productive lands, outside of areas withdrawn by Congress, the Secretary or the Chief, qualify as tentatively suitable. (Timber Association, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IV-62. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not reduce the suitable timber base during plan revisions.

We do not support reduction of the suitable timber base. We believe only lands containing non-productive soils, or areas statutorily recognized as wilderness should be classified as unsuitable. Forest managers should keep active management options open for all other lands even if they are not scheduled for active treatment in the next 15-year period. (Business, LEWISTON, ID – 103)

Base your "suitability" definition on timber harvest, which is defined as an activity or tool by which you can removed trees from a forest for numerous management objectives, one of which is timber production. The national direction to maintain the maximum amount of suitable land base should be your goal. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 2100)

Our concern is that acres are being arbitrarily deducted from the "suitable base." During our review of your proposed action, it was unclear which acres were considered to be part of the "suitable base." The Selway Front, for example, does not mention specific withdrawals from the suitable acres. What deductions, if any, are proposed and why? The same question applies to the Meadow Creek, South Fork Clearwater, Red River, Lower Salmon East and West, and the Mallard-Jersey geographic areas. Overall, we feel that all acres should, and in fact are, required to be classified as "suitable" using regional criteria. Your proposed action should detail those acres deducted and the criteria used. (Timber Industry, ELK CITY, ID – 3159)

It would be a drastic mistake for the long-term viability of local milling infrastructure and forest health if the Forest Service takes a short-term view of cost efficiency. This is especially critical when considering inventoried roadless areas. We expect productive land regardless of its current forest health condition, whether roaded or unroaded, will remain suitable without respect to the proximity of existing road systems. We recommend very few areas be subtracted from tentatively suitable through the application of the subjective criteria in step B. Whether or not an area is accessible, by any method in the short-term is immaterial, the long view dictates areas that meet the basic factual criteria in step A should be classified as suitable. (Timber Association, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

With the increased efficiencies of our new sawmill, we will be able to pay a higher price for logs and will be able to use logs down to a smaller top-end diameter. Long-term planning decisions made now, to reduce the suitable base, should be made in the context of new technologies and markets as well as current. We believe that deductions applied to the suitable base now are not likely to be reversed in the future. (Timber Industry, ELK CITY, ID – 3159)

IV-63. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should allow mechanical treatment in unsuitable areas.

In areas that are classified as unsuitable we encourage the Forest Service to provide for the precision of mechanical treatment as a tool to achieve forest health and public safety. (Timber Association, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IV-64. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not consider roadless lands as part of the timber base.

The Clearwater and Nez Perce revised forest plans would be wise to de-emphasize any expectation that roadless lands will be part of the timber base or will otherwise be developed. Politics, courts, budgets, public attention and resource values all make it problematic at best to develop roadless areas. Any effort to build roads in roadless areas will be controversial, expensive, below-cost for virtually any potential timber sale, and put valuable aquatic and terrestrial resources at risk. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

IV-65. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider application of suitability criteria for non-timber forest activities.

I find it very disturbing that the only thing in a forest with "suitability" rating is timber. My hopes would be that we drop the timber suitability rating. If that is not possible, then we must add a suitability rating for streams (fishing, swimming, and boating). If that is not possible, then we must add suitability rating for hiking (terrain roughness, trails, and trail use by ATVs). If that is not possible, then we must add a suitability rating for camping (flatness of ground, firewood availability, and other nearby outdoor activities.) If that is not possible, then we must add a suitability rating for every national forest activity. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

Allowable Sale Quantity

IV-66. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should set a sustainable ASQ (allowable sale quantity).

Setting an excessively high ASQ (allowable sale quantity) in the 1987 forest plan did not serve the public, the forests, or the timber industry. Instead, it created a climate of animosity between various segments of society. By relying on unrealistic expectations, both the timber industry and the public felt misled. We encourage you to set a realistic ASQ that does not further divide various user groups. A realization that factors outside of our control could further influence your capacity to produce logs would provide the flexibility in providing a rationale for a lower ASQ. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

The first generation of forest plans for these two forests were forced, through political coercion, to incorporate unsustainable levels of logging. Any logging targets or quantities identified in the revised Clearwater and Nez Perce forest plans must based on sustainable levels, particularly in regards to the need to protect listed fish populations and restore degraded watersheds. Recent levels of logging for both forests combined have ranged

between 20 to 50 mmbf (million board feet) annually. Future logging levels should not be expected to exceed this range. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

Levels

IV-67. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should increase the level of timber management.

This plan doesn't have any goal for board feet of timber cutting. This is a source of revenue . . . . (County Elected Official, OROFINO, ID – 2096)

Both the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests need to deal with the forest health problems and cannot possibly do this with management levels set that low. The current level of timber activity is not acceptable. (Individual, ELK CITY, ID – 4905)

Methods

IV-68. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should use timber harvest as one management tool.

Timber Management: hopefully with the new forest plan regulations we can move away from suitable lands, ASQ (allowable sale quantity), etc. Timber harvest should be just a tool in the tool box for sustaining healthy forest, neither inherently good nor bad. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5434)

IV-69. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should use appropriate methods to reduce the potential for forest fires.

One of my huge concerns is with the present concept that logging is the answer to the woes of forest fires in this region. Certainly slashing down overly dense saplings and thinning stands makes sense, but not logging this area. (Individual, SNOQUALMIE, WA – 1780)

IV-70. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider that fire is just one method to use to restore vegetation.

Fire is a tool the Forest Service may wish to incorporate into broad planning especially for the purpose of restoring vegetation, however, restoring vegetation should be the goal and other tools, including but not limited to, traditional management actions such as mechanical treatment, logging, etc. should be embraced. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

LIMITED BURNING WINDOWS

The shift toward using fire as the main tool in vegetation management in the North Fork drainage as proposed has some serious drawbacks. The limited burning windows in that area due to moisture levels and smoke drift over into the Bitterroot Valley area means that not enough area can be treated to help alleviate the problems. There are other tools that can be used to manipulate the vegetation into the desired condition. Through the use of stewardship contracts this work can be paid for with the sale of products removed. This is not the answer for all areas but the new forest plan appears to exclude this as even being an option. The new machinery and techniques used today are capable of a very light-on-the-land approach while at the same time providing jobs and a sustainable tax base. Failure to act in a timely fashion could result in catastrophic fire events as brush continues to build up. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 7982)

MECHANICAL TREATMENT AND FIRE

On page 48 of your Proposed Action, one of the proposed goals for the Selway Front for example, is to restore western white pine on moist western red cedar sites. Growing sites in the Selway Front are some of the most productive sites on the forest. In our view, the use of wildfire on these stands of timber, some of which exceed 50 mbf per acre, is problematic. As an alternative to fire, the use of mechanical treatment to thin overstsocked stands makes a lot more sense. An additional benefit would be to generate employment for the local economies and revenues for the Forest Service. (Timber Industry, ELK CITY, ID – 3159)

The key recommendation of this report (elk collaborative) is to burn, on average, about 2% of the area (roughly 50,000 acres) within Idaho Department of Fish and Game management units 10, 12, 17, and 19 each year for the next 12 to 15 years. The Tribe encourages the Forest Service to embrace this goal and to maintain a dialog with members of the collaborative. The Tribe understands this is an aggressive goal the forests may have trouble meeting as a cumulative number of acres even over a 12- or 15-year period. Therefore, the Nez Perce Tribe has agreed some of the acreage goals can be achieved through mechanical means, or timber (harvest), through manipulating an average of 2% of the roaded areas in units 10 and 12 each year for the next 12 or 15 ears. While this is an ambitious goal, recent experience indicates it can be achieved. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

RISK

The Proposed Action strongly emphasizes fire as the "tool of choice" for managing our forests. This is extremely risky and as a taxpayer I see this as extremely expensive and unnecessary. It also does not have the precision of mechanical harvesting measures. I personally have seen acre upon acre of dead trees where prescribed burns went through. Forest Service staff told me that these trees would survive. It's instances like this that add to the questionable use of fire to manage our forests. (Individual, ELK CITY, ID – 4905)

IV-71. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider timber harvest prior to burning.

Logging as a tool should be used to help restore the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests before any fire should be used. I find it OK to burn in the wilderness. But no marketable wood fiber should be burnt. The schools and counties need the funds from the U.S. Forest Service and these funds should come from timber sold from the forests. The resource is there. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

We support reducing fuels with good timber harvest projects, including roadless areas if necessary. This will reduce the chance of prescribed fires escaping and becoming resource-damaging wildfires. (Business, LEWSTON, ID – 103)

Concerned Sportsmen of Idaho recommends retaining land management designations such as C8S lands on the Clearwater National Forest any types 14, 15 and 16 lands on the Nez Perce National Forest throughout the applicable geographic areas listed in each forest. The above lands are managed for big game winter and summer range. Those lands, skillfully managed mechanically, can improve elk forage and reduce heavy fuel loading prior to the introduction of prescribed fire. (Hunting/Trapping Organization, VIOLA, ID – 3845)

IV-72. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should implement environmentally-sensitive timber harvest methods.

I would not be opposed to logging operations if no new roads were built and helicopters were used to transport the logs out of the woods. (Individual, WASILLA, AK – 5388)

There are resource management tools available that alone or in combination can be used to effectively extract resources without causing damage to the ecosystem (i.e., combining horse logging with helicopters can offer an "out-of-the-box" presentation to be developed on landscapes not normally considered). In rural economic development "out-of-the-box" thinking and considering all opportunities is critical and we encourage the Forest Service to join us in this mode. (Place-Based Group, OROFINO, ID – 3282)

IV-73. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the economic benefits of logging for local communities.

Revenue from logging is vital to our roads and our schools. In addition, logging keeps jobs in our communities and this economy supports local businesses and hospitals. We are not a community which has the potential to attract diverse business enterprises to locate here. We are the figurative "community at the end of the railroad." We must support our resource-based jobs if we are to maintain the quality of life which is so important to all of us. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 1933)

We encourage the forest to identify a sustainable allocation of timber resources and consider all economic impacts to the communities in rural north-central Idaho. (Place-Based Group, OROFINO, ID – 3282)

You . . . state that change means a reduction in the suitable timber base in certain areas. My suggestions would be to change your direction to be more friendly to this local area instead of less. Take into consideration the social and economic values of Idaho and Clearwater counties. (Individual, KOOSKIA, ID – 5370)

IV-74. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should harvest timber in roadless areas.

Even though forest timber sales have been highly controversial in the roadless areas, timber harvesting as a management tool for roadless areas should not be removed from the forest plan. There could be in the future a situation that requires timber harvesting to keep the roadless areas healthy and if this happens and the forest plan specifically forbids the most favorable solution then the forest will suffer a less than optimal solution. (Individual, JULIAETTA, ID – 4886)

IV-75. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should adopt the Clearwater National Forest's "three-pronged strategy" for vegetation management.

Another example of how important strong, quantifiable standards help achieve conservation strategy goals is determining when and how to implement management prescriptions for post fire management. After viewing the fire history maps for the two forests there appears every reason to incorporate the proposed post fire management practices into the forest plans via a vegetation management strategy (e.g., three-pronged forest management strategy). (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

We assumed the proposed action would support Larry Dawson's three-pronged plan that includes no logging in roadless areas. This approach has been billed as the path to reduce controversy, as logging roadless areas is very unpopular and scientifically indefensible. Presently there is some inconsistent wording in the Proposed Action that promotes logging in roadless areas. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 23)

INCONSISTENT APPLICATION

The three-prong approach the Clearwater National Forest office promised in the newspaper is not fulfilled as the proposed action allows logging in Weitas Creek, a crucial roadless area. (Individual, TROY, ID – 4383)

IV-76. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not link thinning to economic gain.

Thinning projects must not be linked to economic gain, i.e., typically thinning projects include logging of larger trees to make the project economically feasible. Any thinning for restoration must not include logging of large trees. (Individual, TUCSON, AZ – 3781)

IV-77. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not log old growth.

The Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests are deficient in old growth across most habitat types. Putting all remaining old growth acres into "unsuitable" acres would be a first step in protecting present old growth. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Don't cut old growth, like the handful of cedar trees logged at Nee Me Poo Trailhead – Musselshell – in the last 2-3 years. (Remember, these trails give us national focus and attention.) Isn't there a historic trail corridor? (Individual, WEIPPE, ID – 1121)

It is important to note that not all old-growth attributes can be mimicked by allowing old clearcuts to age (Della Sala, et al. 1995); some attributes of old-growth subalpine forest may take upwards of 700 years to develop (Aplet et al. 1998). Sites assigned to short-rotation forestry will never produce old growth; in order to provide for old growth recruitment more readily, little or no commercial logging needs to be adopted into the revised forest plan. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

IV-78. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should log only in areas with roads.

My priorities for forest plan revision are: Limit logging to areas with established roads. (Individual, LITCHFIELD PARK, AZ – 7093)

IV-79. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should manage timber in productive areas that can be restocked.

I'd like to see timber management activities only in areas where productivity and restockability are proven. (Individual, THOMPSON FALLS, MT – 10758)

IV-80. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the effects of logging on water and related resources.

Salmon and steelhead require good and plentiful water, especially during spawning runs. The more forest removal we engage in, the less the shade cover for natural reseeding, the quicker the snow melt off in the spring, and the more downstream flooding we will incur. Spring flooding and levee-raising in the village of St. Maries provide a perfect example of what happens when a river drainage is over logged. (Individual, UNKNOWN – 5435)

Repeated studies by biologists and Fish and Wildlife Service and the Geologic Survey have noted the detrimental effects of logging on water quality and viable habitat. (Individual, SHELBURNE, VT – 5429)

IV-81. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not allow timber harvest in wild and scenic river corridors.

Eliminate the negative visual impacts of logging clearcuts by not allowing this practice in the corridors of the Lochsa, Selway, and Clearwater Wild and Scenic Rivers. Consider the visual impact to forest recreation users who float and fish these rivers. Timber harvests should occur outside the visual corridor of these rivers. (Individual, KOOSKIA, ID – 3852)

IV-82. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not use clearcutting as a management tool.

Clearcutting is unacceptable and dangerous to the environment, especially in light of the global warm-up. (Individual, TYLER, TX – 5376)

IV-83. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recognize timber sales are not necessary.

Obviously, with the Forest Service selling "timber purpose" timber sales using trees that belong to the public, growing on the land that belongs to the public only accomplishes one thing. It only fattens the corporate bottom line. Since their net worth is measured in the billions and the post harvest ecological mess is left to the American public to fix up, any thinking person can clearly see that "timber purpose" timber sales are not necessary. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

IV-84. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not consider logging as an option.

There is no good reason to allow logging of these forests. Timber harvest produces far more impacts than benefits including, but not limited to, the spread of exotic weeds, fragmentation of wildlife habitat, changes in age and composition of tree stands, and loss of woody debris. (Individual, EUGENE, OR – 51)

I noticed those areas that had been roaded and logged had more noxious weeds, degraded water quality (high fine sediments, low fish populations, higher turbidity, etc.), and less diversity in plant and wildlife species. (Individual, TUCSON, AZ – 3781)

Logging removes shade, decreases value, and increases temperature of the creeks and open hillsides. Timber slows the snow melt in the spring, decreasing erosion. (Individual, LEWISTON, ID – 140)

Logging like there is no tomorrow should stop now. Remember tomorrow when you manage our land. (Individual, WEIPPE, ID – 1121)

Restoration

IV-85. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should restore the forests.

We need to return our forest to more seral stands. There are too many areas where grand fir is now growing where ponderosa pine was once the dominant species. Along the Salmon River much of the douglas fir is beginning to die and these stands need to be removed and ponderosa pine replanted. The Florence Basin and Crooked River drainage will soon look like Red River unless some action is taken. (Timber Industry, KOOSKIA, ID 1922)

Obviously there was a period of over-harvest. There should be a period of rest. (Individual, LEWISTON, ID – 140)

Those areas that have suffered from past development should be restored, and it is from these areas that a reduced, sustainable level of outputs may be possible. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 39)

IV-86. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should take action to combat tree diseases.

The plan should clearly define the action to be taken when disease attacks our forests. No delay. Allow roads to be built, trees harvested and replanted. Since 1984, the shameful waste of timber in the Red River area should never happen again. The plan should clearly state that fire-killed timber would be removed immediately before spoilage and loss of revenue occurs. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IV-87. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should restore native tree species and the historical mix of species.

My priority for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests is to manage them for forest health. To that end, I'd like to see the following done: Restore the species mix to the native and historical species mix, particularly the fire resistant pines. (Individual, LEWISTON, ID – 34)

IV-88. The Clearwaer and Nez Perce Forests should modify efforts to restore western white pine.

Although it is a commendable goal to restore western white pine (WWP) to its full ecosystem value, it is currently not possible. White pine blister rust "genetically resistant" stock of WWP does not appear capable of reaching the stage of mature forest. Although in some cases it may approach a "harvestable" age before succumbing, this is certainly not a stage approaching full ecosystem values, and is not a reason to plan timber sales and remove current mature forests. A better (albeit slower but much more durable) method of restoration would be to make sure that not a single naturally-occurring resistant WWP is ever again harvested or impacted in a negative manner. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 38)

IV-89. The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests should consider how to manage insects and pathogens.

A proposed forest-wide goal under "Landscape Processes" (p. 12) is for "native forest insects and pathogens (to) influence forest composition, structure and density at levels natural for the area." Is it possible at this time to expect to eliminate non-native insects and pathogens, or might we be better served to perhaps find ways to manage so native and non-natives both play a role in achieving vegetative goals? (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

Domestic Livestock Management

Grazing Management

IV-90. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should allow livestock grazing on the national forests.

We feel that you need to include grazing as a management tool for the land. (County Elected Official, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2081)

Recognize that livestock grazing is beneficial. Reference University of Nevada-Reno study, "Vegetation Change after 65 Years of Grazing and Grazing Exclusion." (Agriculture Association, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3854)

There is no discussion at all of range. I would favor language that says range and grazing will be provided with distribution and season of use that avoids conflicts with wildlife and protects soil and water resource values. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IV-91. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider grazing as a method of fuels management.

Destruction of merchantable timber by fire should be eliminated, and allowed to be harvested. Grazing the undergrowth is better utilization of fire management. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3851)

IV-92. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should reconsider allotment management plans.

The Proposed Action suggests that grazing is adequately addressed by the current allotment management plans. It is imperative that the revised forest plans look at the legacy, and current impacts of grazing on watershed health. Just maintaining grazed areas in a degraded condition is not adequate. Livestock grazing must be reduced or excluded from riparian and other sensitive areas. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Grazing continues to have major adverse impacts on streams and wildlife habitat in various parts of the forest. Therefore, IDFG (Idaho Department of Fish and Game) does not agree that current allotment management plans and policy provide adequate protections. It is IDFG's opinion that changes in grazing management strategies and policy will almost certainly be required if certain other revised planning goals, like meeting water quality standards, restoring fisheries, protecting and restoring riparian habitat, etc., are to be achieved. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

IV-93. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should prohibit grazing of domestic sheep and goats in areas inhabited by bighorn sheep.

We recommend that the forest plan include a provision that prohibits grazing of domestic sheep and goats in or adjacent to any habitat suitable for or occupied by bighorn sheep. Diseases carried by domestic sheep and goats are the primary limiting factor for bighorn sheep in this region. Wild sheep should be adequately protected from disease transmission if grazing areas are buffered by sufficient habitat not suitable for wild sheep. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

IV-94. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should reduce or eliminate livestock grazing on the national forests.

No livestock grazing should be permitted on the forest. Livestock management can reduce damage, but it's impossible to graze livestock without significant, and in my view, far more damage than any benefits. Livestock pollutes water, spreads disease to native wildlife (as with bighorn sheep), damages riparian areas, compacts solids, spreads weeds, affects fire regimes, affects nutrient cycling, affects predators, and competes with native species for forage. (Individual, EUGENE, OR – 51)

Through the revision process the Tribe encourages the forests to reduce grazing impacts in the Palouse River, Potlatch River, and Elk Creek. Additionally, the Tribe urges the forest to eliminate livestock grazing in the anadromous tributaries to Lolo Creek, Lochsa River,

Salmon River, and in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness area. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Mining and Mineral Exploration

IV-95. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the Hard Rock Mining Act of 1872.

To the extent that mineral development and mining will be significant activities on the forests in the next 10-15 years, we believe it would be useful if the environmental impact statement discussed the Hard Rock Mining Act of 1872, its benefits and impacts, and potential conflicts with the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Endangered Species Act. The mining act grants the right to private individuals to explore and develop mineral rights on federal lands. However, while mining provides valuable raw material, it can pose environmental risks and impacts that conflict with environmental statutes. We do not believe the mining act preempts environmental statutes. Discussion of the legal discretion available to the Forest Service in granting mining permits, and how each forest proposes to balance mineral development and exploration with the protection and restoration of environmental resources, sustainability and ecosystem management may be relevant. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

IV-96. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should allow recreational dredge mining without an environmental analysis.

Requiring an environmental impact statement for each individual recreational miner to dredge is totally unworkable. (Individual, EAGLE, ID – 5211)

I feel with proper management, (the establishment of proper guidelines) opening up more areas is feasible and perhaps even a good thing for the habitat. (Individual, EAGLE, ID – 5211)

IV-97. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider environmental mpacts that could result from active, inactive or abandoned mines.

We believe the revised land and resource management plans and environmental impact statements should: discuss environmental impacts and risks from inactive, abandoned, and active mines; identify proposed management direction, actions and priorities for addressing environmental impacts and risks from inactive, abandoned and active mines; discuss the mineral outputs of the active mines; and provide maps indicating sites of active and inactive mines, valid pre-existing rights, and areas open to and withdrawn from mineral entry . . . . (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

The land and resource management plans' revision environmental impact statement should evaluate and disclose the potential for acid mine drainage and/or metal or nutrient transport or pollution to occur during mineral exploration and development on national forest lands. Pollutant discharges from mine adits, and mine site surface runoff and ground water seepage are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency and/or the States National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits under section 402 of the Clean Water Act. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

IV-98. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider adverse impacts that could result from mineral development or mining.

Mineral development/mining has the potential to cause water pollution, and other adverse environmental impacts. The Environmental Protection Agency is particularly concerned

regarding hardrock mining impacts to public health and the environmental from acid mine drainage and metal and nitrogen contamination of surface and ground waters. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

There is a need to protect the taxpayer from the potential expense of reclamation and remediation following hardrock mine financial failures or abandonment. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA – 7081)

Other Activities Management

IV-99. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider that many treaty-reserved resources are imperiled.

Many of the treaty-reserved natural resources which the Nez Perce Tribe depends upon are currently imperiled, not due to any fault of the Tribe's. For example, through commercialized harvest of roots and berries, the forests have permitted non-Indians to impact tribal members' abilities to conduct traditional harvest of these currently depleted culturally significant resources. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Chapter 5 – Transportation System Management

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Transportation System Management

Transportation System (Roads and Trails)

General Comments

V-1. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should use the following systems to develop a transportation plan.

The first component of the transportation plan consists of a baseline transportation network designed during the resource management planning process. The Forest Service should take the following sequential steps to create this network:
1) Establish criteria to reflect the National Forest's protective purpose to identify routes necessary for access and use of the National Forest. Routes should be evaluated in light of ground-truthed digital spatial data obtained for the objects or interest and other key resources that indicate overall land health and integrity or otherwise require heightened legal protection. Individual routes must in fact be designated, and the forest plan must identify the allowable uses of the route (as examples, general public, recreation, administrative) and the allowable intensity of that use. . .
2) Aggregate in digital format and ground truth existing data concerning key forest resources needing protection. . . .
3) In accordance with the established criteria (see 1. above), identify existing individual routes necessary for use and enjoyment of the national forest. The FS should disclose why each route deemed "necessary" is, in fact, necessary.
4) Use habitat fragmentation analysis to evaluate all routes deemed "necessary" to ascertain their direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on key biological, physical, recreational, and cultural resources. . . .
5) Devise several alternative transportation networks based on the evaluation of existing routes and subsequently assess each alternative network through habitat fragmentation analysis. . .
6) Interpret the results of the habitat fragmentation analysis for each alternative in light of relevant literature concerning the impacts of motorized routes on wildlife. . .
7) Identify and propose a preferred transportation system from the range of alternatives. The FS's choice should be driven by the agency's paramount duty to advance the protective purposes of the national forest.
8) Establish an adaptive ecosystem management framework to implement the transportation system and to guide and inform the public and the FS with regard to all future transportation related decisions. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

The second component of the transportation plan consists of an adaptive ecosystem management framework that provides the means to deal with the inherent uncertainty in access management of public lands. On the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests, we recommend the following elements for an adaptive ecosystem management framework for access management: Aggressive inventories of the various natural and cultural resources of the national forest and enforceable monitoring and evaluation requirements to track use and management of the baseline transportation system . . . use of forest plan level habitat fragmentation analysis as a living, baseline analysis . . . criteria (within the forest plans) for all implementation level decisions, including criteria and timelines for route closure and decommissioning and all route maintenance work . . . a prioritized route decommissioning

schedule that is implemented through a committed portion of the national forest's staff and annual budget. . . . While factors such as budget and staff should be factored into the equation, they must not be used as excuses to evade the decommissioning process. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

INVENTORIES

Accurate route inventories as well as an understanding of the recreational use pattern is essential for effective travel management planning. Each road and trail should be inventoried and evaluated on the ground to determine its recreational value and any significant problem areas that require mitigation measures. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 10861)

The agency is strongly encouraged to work cooperatively with volunteer organizations on inventory of roads and trails, regardless of whether that inventory is done concurrent with planning or done on an interim basis prior to planning. Such cooperation includes education, workshops, and utilization of user-friendly global positioning software to convert data recorded by users with low-end GPS units to agency data needs, i.e. software such as 'OziExplorer'. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

THINK TO THE FUTURE

It is critical that the FS (Forest Service) plan a transportation and a recreation system that will still work effectively long into the future when the modes and amounts of recreation might be considerably different. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

V-2. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop a travel system that protects and improves forest lands.

Maintain, reconstruct, and relocate existing roads and trails to reduce resource impacts. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

We understand and appreciate the need for the plan to develop access management goals that will meet the desires of diverse groups of forest users, many with conflicting interests. However, access management should, to be consistent with the proposed changes, be developed using management principles aimed at preserving and protecting ecosystem health and diversity. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

There is a cute book called “If You Give a Mouse a cookie” and the concept is that the mouse will only want more. If you open the opportunity just a pinch, in time, more and more demands will be made. The decision you make could have a ripple effect. If access to these forests is made easy, illegal activities will surely follow. Chances will increase for forest fires due to careless people. Illegal hunting will probably become more abundant. (Individual, LOUISVILLE, KY – 5513)

HERITAGE

The natural heritage of these areas needs strong protection from damage caused by the use of off-road vehicles and road building. (Individual, W HARTFORD, CT -4543)

MANAGEMENT INDICATOR SPECIES AND SPECIES VIABILITY

The travel management framework and associated NEPA document should clearly outline how the Forest Service will ensure viability and achieve objectives for management indicator species (MIS). (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

RIPARIAN AREAS AND WATERSHEDS

We urge the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests to plan travel management such that the health of degraded, threatened of priority watersheds will improve and sensitive riparian habitats are adequately protected. High-risk roads and trails that threaten water quality need to be closed, decommissioned, and enforced. If such a road is essential for management purposes, all problem sections should be realigned. Ridge-top roads and trails are generally less environmentally damaging than roads along riparian areas. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID- 1170)

The Forest Service should ensure that routes that are designated in the travel system should be appropriate for the specified type of travel. Specifically, they should be engineered so that: a) excessive erosion will not occur, b) water drainage is accommodated, and c) critical ecological areas are avoided. In riparian areas, routes should be designed to avoid stream corridors as much as possible. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

WEEDS

The Nez Perce Tribe recommends the Forest consider immediate measures constricting the vectors dispersing the weed seeds. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID - 3867)

V-3. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should close large tracts of land to off-highway vehicle use.

Since it is very difficult, if not impossible, to monitor ORV use with the limited resources available to the Forest Service, it makes sense to make large tracts of forest lands off-limits to ORV use altogether, thus mitigating the lack of enforcement power. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 136)

V-4. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should close ecologically-damaging routes.

The forest should close, restrict, or reroute routes based on the ecological planning approach discussed above. Routes considered to be ecologically damaging include the following characteristics: areas susceptible to high rates of erosion trails (i.e. Pot Mtn.), areas of important wildlife habitat, landscapes vulnerable to the introduction of exotic species into sensitive habitats (especially where threatened or endangered species reside), inventoried roadless areas where use will diminish roadless and/or wilderness values, special management areas such as research natural areas and recommended wilderness areas, and areas of particular biological concern. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

V-5. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should reduce routes in the travel system.

Both forests should continue to streamline their travel systems by continuing to reduce redundant, unnecessary, and/or environmentally damaging routes. In streamlining the travel system, the FS should emphasize keeping a higher percentage of higher maintenance level routes (routes that can be driven by passenger vehicles) and remove the hard to reach, high clearance routes that reach deep into backcountry areas and are not integral to moving people or goods through the area. The result of such a policy is to allow access to the most people with the fewest routes and to allocate limited resources in the most efficient manner. Maintaining a large road network to a lower standard in order to benefit a small minority of users desiring an extreme 4WD experience is an inefficient use of public resources . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

Roads bring invasive species, erosion, poaching, litter, and fire, while fracturing wildlife habitat. (Individual, REDLANDS, CA - 940)

V-6. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should allow more motorized routes in the forests.

We need more motorized access into our forests so that we can care for them. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 40)

V-7. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should fully utilize existing roads and trails.

The FS must recognize that providing for OHV use and protecting the environment means fully utilizing the inventory of existing roads and trails. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

The existing network of roads and trails in the planning area should be considered an inventory with which to develop recreational trail systems. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

V-8. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should allow all roads and trails that are currently open to remain open.

. . . we believe that all roads and trails currently open to the public should remain open. Public lands should not be closed off and access of the public to them denied. (Domestic Livestock Industry, WHITE BIRD, ID - 2095)

. . . allow access to those established roads and trails that are currently open and to work with all groups such as PLAY, the snowmobiler's club and others; such as hunters, fisherman and outfitters, to connect other opportunities for loops that will be accessed by the public. (County Government, OROFINO, ID - 2096)

ECONOMIC VIABILITY

It is critical to the continued economic viability of Heckman Ranches that road and trails which are currently open and which provide strategic access to our grazing allotments as well as the seasonal movement of our stock to and from the allotments remain open and be appropriately included in the final official inventory your project develops. . . . Specific road and trails currently open that remain critical to the Ranches are identified below: Road 930 commonly referred to as the Dennis Parlor Trail in the Nez Perce National Forest. This road is critical for the movement of stock. Peter Ready Road from Four Corners to the head of Willow Creek. Used for ranching and recreation. Road 313 commonly referred to as Heppner Creek Road, from Adams Work Center to Road 444 (Gospel Road) used for ranch purposes. (Domestic Livestock Industry, WHITE BIRD, ID - 2095)

ENJOYMENT

Myself and a lot of other people need to have access to the area on four-wheelers and other modes of transportation. We need to have the roads we build and the trails open so we can enjoy our outdoors. (Individual, SPANGLE, WA - 22)

FOREST HEALTH

We need all of our historic access to accomplish forest health. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 65)

All access through roads and trails needs to continue. We may need to open up more motorized access to care for these areas. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 1162)

V-9. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recognize the large number of closures to motorized routes that has occurred over the years.

In regard to the CNF and NPNF, there have been large-scale closures of access to motorized routes since the 1970's. Even though this cannot be denied there are groups who will never end the controversy until the last route is closed. Well over half of the system roads in the CNF are currently closed/restricted with similar numbers for the NPNF. Many routes once open to motorized recreation have been closed over the years due to wilderness designation and various other reasons. The improvement or construction of main travel routes does not mitigate this condition. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID - 4389)

V-10. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should include RS-2477 assertions in the transportation system.

A travel plan should be considered to include the Idaho County RS2477 ROW (right-of-way) assertions which could cause reconsideration of some wilderness areas, or any future designations. The access management should be just that, accessible to everyone, even the disabled. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 3851)

V-11. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should join existing roads and trails to improve the system and disperse use.

Creating new motorized trails and joining roads and trails that were not joined in the past make for great riding opportunities. The more wide spread trail system we have on the national forest the better it is for the environment. I am no biologist but I can tell you for a fact that motorized use in a large spread out trail system has less of an impact on the environment than a small trail system. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 2099)

The existing roads and trails need to be inventoried for future development and trail maintenance, the old logging roads can be tied together through a loop system and have the local rider groups help with the maintenance of the trails on a yearly basis. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 135)

Each road and trail should be evaluated for its value as a motorized loop or connected route. Each spur road and trail should be evaluated for its value as a source of dispersed campsite, exploration opportunities, and scenic overlook destination or as access for other reason. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 10861)

V-12. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not consider closing any road or trail without following appropriate notification and process.

As a general policy we strongly encourage and expect that your project will not close any road or trail currently open and used for ranching and/or recreational purposes without an appropriate public hearings and other due process as we understand your own regulations now require and the general public is entitled to. (Domestic Livestock Industry, WHITE BIRD, ID – 2095)

We are adamant that there be no road or trail closures without the full public due process outlined in the law. (Motorized Recreation, WHITE BIRD, ID - 32)

Such (community) involvement is critical, for example, in determining a sustainable road system on public lands. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 5372)

V-13. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should close routes only when there are no other options.

In order to properly address the increase in popularity of OHV use now and in the future, travel management alternatives should be developed with the objective of including as many roads and trails as possible and addressing as many problems as possible by using all possible mitigation measures. Mitigation first, closure last. . . . The preferred approach is to address problems through mitigation measures such as education, signing and structural improvements such as water bars, trail re-routing and bridges. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

VI-14. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should analyze the impacts of access decisions on treaty-reserved rights.

The forests should analyze and evaluate impacts of Forest Service management actions to acess for tribal members exercising treaty-reserved rights. This includes the impacts of land exchanges, timber sales, road obliteration, and other actions that may limit access to tribal members. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

V-15. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the impacts of road and trail management in all of the revision topics.

Road and trail management should not be separated from the other priority topics, watershed condition, noxious weeds, protection of terrestrial habitats and special area designations are all inseparable from the road system that accesses or disrupts the desired future conditions. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID –

V-16. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should address the impacts of roads and off-highway vehicle use on the forests.

The environmental analysis of the proposed travel system should address the combined environmental and social impacts of roads and off-highway vehicle use, taking into consideration the projected growth of future recreational use, the Forest Service's ability to manage this use and the ability of the landscape to withstand impacts from recreation. . . .This analysis should recognize that there are some areas where the negative impacts associated with motorized use are inappropriately damaging. These negative impacts include the following effects: litter, fuel spills, wildlife disturbance, spread of noxious weeds, soil loss, displacement of non-motorized recreationists, and increased fire hazard from cigarettes, campfires and vehicles. Such a policy is in the long-term interests of recreationists as high-quality recreational experiences depend on healthy forests, habitats, and ecosystems. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

V-17. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should modify travel restrictions.

An important component of effective off road vehicle management is to abandon the 300 foot off route rule whereby vehicles are allowed to travel 300 feet off of roads to camp or gather fire wood. As law enforcement officers and wildlife managers have long been saying, this provision renders a designated route system ineffectual since new trails can be pioneered anywhere off designated routes under the guise of camping or firewood collecting. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

V-18. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should enforce travel restrictions.

If the NFS (national forest service) is allowed to operate with this attitude and action, why not have the local police restrict travel on 1000s of public roads and prohibit access to parks and recreation areas. . . . If the local, state and federal law departments can police their areas of jurisdiction, why can't the NFS? (Individual, COEUR D ALENE, ID - 8)

V-19. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should base travel decisions on actual monitoring.

We only ask that road and trail decisions that are made to preserve or restore these systems are made based on actual monitoring of the route's impact on the system and with input from the affected public to determine if other routes are or can be made available if the social consequences justify other mitigation. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID - 4389)

V-20. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should have a good reason for denying access to an area.

There are also things we strongly oppose. One of those is denial of access to our public land for not clearly demonstrable purposes. Such actions treat us as a second class citizens and that is unacceptable. We object in the strongest terms to limits supported only by feel good science and vague opinions. When access to an area is denied us, we want the denial to meet the test of serving a real need; whatever possible, we would like to see any losses mitigated with access to other suitable lands. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4388)

V-21. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests do not have an obligation to provide motorized use on national forest lands.

The public has many opportunities to drive motorized vehicles on other lands in the state. For the most part, State of Idaho lands and private timberlands are open for motorized use. Potlatch Corporation has over 660,000 acres open for motorized use. Just because there is a want by a special interest group does not mean the Forest Service must accommodate that want. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Rights-of-Way

V-22. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not consider closing or restricting rights-of-way in accordance with the law

Importantly, closure or restriction of any aforementioned right-of-ways or any historic right-of-way would be a violation of Congress, which on July 26, 1866, passed, as part of the Mining Act of 1866, Revised Statutes 2477 ("R.S. 2477"). This statute, although now repealed and 129 years old, still applies to right-of-way established over federally administered lands. R.S. 2477 states, in its entirety: "Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, that the right-of-way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted.". . . Every pertinent court and administrative action acknowledges that state law provides the basis for determining the existence and scope of R.S. 2477 rights-of-way. Pursuant to Idaho Code the only method for the abandonment of these rights-of-way shall be that of eminent domain proceedings in which the taking of the public's right to access shall be justly compensated. . . . Any closures or restriction of access ways under county jurisdiction would be a direct violation of Idaho Code: . . . (County Government /Elected, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 2081)

V-23. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider RS-2477 assertions prior to closing roads or trails.

Consider RS 2477 assertions by Idaho County before closing or obliterating any roads or trails. (Agriculture Industry or Associations, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 3854)

The Forest Service should not proceed with any road closures until the issue of RS 2477 roads has been adequately addressed. (Place Based Group, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 3848)

Roads Analysis

V-24. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should incorporate roads analyses into the planning process.

All national forest plan revisions must incorporate into the planning process the transportation management policy (roads policy) and subsequent directive (66 FR 3250, 66 FR3219). (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR - 3869

V-25. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should use the roads analysis to identify roads for obliteration.

Since forest roads serve as vectors for noxious weeds, a responsible weed management plan would prioritize the obliteration of high-risk and low-use roads as determined by a roads analysis. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

The Clearwater roads analysis clearly outlines over 228 miles of roads that are high risk to the resources, but have a low value for access and recreation. These roads should be forest-wide priorities for decommissioning. In addition, guidance should be given to assist forest managers at the watershed level to minimize the risks created by those roads that are classified as high risk to the resources, but also high value for other users. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1169)

The USFS roads analysis process should be used to identify roads that are most damaging. It should not be used just as an administrative exercise, but as a tool to reduce the overbuilt, under funded road system that exists across the forests. . . . direction to reduce the system must be given at the Forest Service level. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1169)

V-26. The Clearwater National Forest should modify its roads analysis.

The roads analysis for the Clearwater NF did not determine the minimum road system needed (FSM 7712.11). The Clearwater roads report implies there are no unneeded roads on the Clearwater NF and that more are needed. If this is the case please disclose where more roads are needed. Present funding is estimated at 22 percent of needed annual maintenance, which would not even cover the category 1 roads or the arterial roads alone. . . The roads analysis was meant to define the fiscal and environmental limits on roads management. Given the limited maintenance budget, the preliminary roads analysis report for the CNF has not provided a clear blueprint for decision making for roads management. Tradeoffs between road maintenance, obliteration, reconstruction and other changes has not been spelled out or prioritized. . . . The report states that threatened, endangered and sensitive wildlife species "are not at any meaningful risk from roads." "Research and past analysis have shown roads have impacts on elk on the Clearwater NF." . . . Using elk as the only species impacted by roads is wrong and needs to be updated. . . . Considering PACFISH and INFISH buffers along fish bearing streams is 300 feet, to minimize ecological impacts, the Forest should have a plan to move these roads where possible. Why did the report not address the noise and

economic issues at the forest scale? These issues affect the forest as a whole and have forest-wide impacts that need to be analyzed in the revision. . . . The report states, "The detail and accuracy for road risk and values contain a degree of subjectivity and potential inaccuracies." The usefulness of this analysis is suspect considering this statement. Using this report in revising the forest plan will likely lead to poor decisions. There are no clear road management objectives for all classified roads on the forest as directed by the national directive. Unclassified roads are not identified and are not budgeted for obliteration either/or maintenance. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

V-27. The Nez Perce Forest should complete a roads analysis.

A similar roads analysis should be completed for the Nez Perce Forest, or if already complete, the information should be made readily available during the revision process (i.e., available on the revision web-site as the Clearwater analysis). (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1169)

Roads analysis for the Nez Perce National Forest should be immediately completed, and a subsequent emphasis on road removal should be a priority. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

The Nez Perce NF has yet to release a roads analysis. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Roads Management

General Comments

V-28. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop a road management strategy.

A well-planned road management strategy that included road removal, upgrades and maintenance would: 1) Improve hunting grounds and fishing streams - by improving security and limiting the spread of invasive weeds, forage and game thrive. . . . 2) Keep drinking water safe . . . . 3) Conserve maintenance dollars for useful roads . . . . 4) Create long-term jobs - an estimated 3,069 people would work to restore natural areas annually for 20-40 years . . . . 5) Employ local workers - heavy equipment workers, contractors, and engineers who build roads would be hired to restore natural areas . . . local residents could also serve as restoration workers, technicians, and inspectors. 6) Pay high wages to local workers . . . . 7) Stimulate the economy - more forest health restoration would boost manufacturing, transporting, and selling of heavy equipment, generating $600 million annually for the industry. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 5372)

V-29. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should address road-related concerns.

EPA's specific areas of concern regarding roads include factors in addition to road density, such as the number of road stream crossings; road drainage and surface erosion; adequate numbers of ditch relief culverts to avoid drainage running on or along roads; interception and routing sediment to streams; culvert sizing and potential for washout; culvert allowance of fish migration and effects on stream structure; seasonal and spawning habitats; large woody debris recruitment; and riparian habitats. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA - 7081)

Roads, apart from access, also need direction in terms of maintenance, obliteration and erosion control. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

V-30. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the needs of communities when developing the transportation system.

Access to timber and recreational areas are vital to our community and should be taken into account when decisions on the impact to ecosystems are made. (Business, OROFINO, ID - 4377)

V-31. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should identify the road network that can be maintained within budgets and capabilities.

. . . identify the road network needed for land management access, public and tribal needs, and which can be adequately maintained within agency budgets and capabilities. . . . identify road network needed for access and management which can be adequately maintained within budgets and capabilities; close/decommission roads that can't be maintained; minimize new roads; identify existing road conditions that cause or contribute to nonpoint source pollution/stream impairment, and promote conduct of necessary road maintenance to correct deficiencies, and reduce nonpoint source pollution from roads. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA - 7081)

V-32. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not consider expanding the current road system.

I would like to encourage the policy makers and the US Forest Service to maintain the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests in a manner that does not expand the current road system. Roadless areas in northern and central Idaho are practically non-existent now. What remain needs to be preserved. (Individual, WASILLA, AK - 5388)

V-33. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not pursue commitments to new cooperative forest highway ventures.

Finally, I strongly recommend the transportation system envisioned in the plan not include commitments to new and expanded cooperative forest highway ventures with the Federal Highway Administration. These pork barrel projects, such as the project for the nearby Little St. Joe Road on the Lolo National Forest, are an absolute waste of money, poorly thought out, and generally harmful to wildlife, fisheries and watershed health. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 3893)

V-34. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should address the issue of road densities in the national forests.

The revision effort should discuss the implications of various route densities on ecological health. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

One of the most surprising - and disappointing - failures of the Proposed Action was the lack of mention of road densities in both forest wide or geographic area sections of the proposal. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID - 3853)

Address the need to reduce road density to ensure that we have enough funds to maintain the roads we have, and to reduce aquatic and terrestrial effects of roads. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 5441)

DEFINE DESIRED ROUTE-DENSITY LEVELS

The analysis should establish current and target levels for open motorized route densities based on the ecological limitations of each watershed. We are particularly concerned about the friable nature of soils in the Idaho batholith. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service Bull Trout Interim Conservation Guidance states the depressed bull trout populations had an average watershed road density of 1.4 miles per square mile and were extirpated with road densities above 1.7miles per square miles (page 27, BTICG). The Elk Habitat Effectiveness rating is based in part on the density of open roads. Additional seasonal closures may be needed in certain areas to provide habitat security for game. The analysis should quantify both system and user-created trails. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

IMPACTS TO FISH AND WILDLIFE

Road densities and access management greatly impact wildlife habitat, wildlife security, and water quality and watershed health. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID - 3853)

V-35. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should evaluate the effects of existing and new roads on the environment.

Because increased access may result in more developed roads and trails, how will existing and new roads affect soil erosion, water quality, and fish habitat? How will these effects be mitigated? (Individual, TWIN FALLS, ID - 128)

V-36. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should evaluate the costs and benefits of including "roads to nowhere" in the transportation system.

"Roads to nowhere" need to be evaluated as to their costs and benefits of keeping these roads open. Many of these roads get little use and have relatively large costs associated with them such as maintenance, erosion, poaching and wildlife disturbance.

SITE-SPECIFIC

Roads to Nowhere, Nez Perce NF
1)Magruder (468) and side roads: Green Mtn./Elk Summit 285 and Green Mtn./Running Creek 357; 2) Wild Horse Lake CG 2331 (near Gospel Hump, see special categoryHump Road); 3) Sourdough (492); 4) Square Mountain (444); 5) Sawyer Ridge (444A); 6) Pilot Knob (?) (ask Nez Perce Tribe); 7) Indian Hill (290); 8) Big Fog (319); 9) Coolwater Ridge (317)

Roads to Nowhere, Clearwater NF
1) Coolwater Ridge (317,331); 2) Elk Summit (360,358,359); 3) Savage Ridge 111; 4) Tom Beal 362; 5) Boundary Peak (485); 6) Horseshoe Lake (588); 7) Castle Butte 561; 8) Liz Butte (560); 9) Weitas Butte (557); 10) Weitas 555 over Bridge; 11) Toboggan Ridge (581); 12) Black Canyon Section (250); 13) Fly Hill/Gospel (720, 715); 14) Old Hoodoo (5428); 15) Fish Lake/Goose Creek (295 and?) (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

V-37. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider closing some roads.

ACCESS TO PRIVATE LANDS

Nez Perce National Forest special category (close to public/access private land): 1)Hump (233); 2) Mackay Bar 222 (from Jersey Mountain); 3) Whitewater Ranch (421) from Red

Mailbox; 4) 222D Comstock Mine Road (Ramon's place) Road Construction and Reconstruction. . . . Clearwater National Forest special category: Niagara Gulch (723). (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

MAGRUDER CORRIDOR

The closure of the unneeded Magruder Road would unite this largest wildland in the lower 48 with the Selway-Bitterroot and surrounding wildlands. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

V-38. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should keep roads open for public use.

FIRE PROTECTION

My concern centers on keeping all of the forest roads open. In a fire, these roads provide needed access and will ultimately protect our community. (Individual, ELK CITY, ID - 4905)

Most of these roads may be closed and decommissioned, I want you to take another look and consider them in the light of potential access for fire fighting measures. (Individual, ELK CITY, ID - 4905)

SITE-SPECIFIC

Both roads, number 581 and 720/715, need to be kept open. Road 581 is the only route between Kelly Creek and Powell. Road 720/715 is the only road to connect the St. Joe to the Cedars Area. These roads need to be kept open for many reasons including fire, search and rescue, and law enforcement. There are also outfitters and miners that use these roads. (County Government, OROFINO, ID - 2096)

I strongly oppose any reduction in areas open for summer and winter motorized use. I refer in particular, to the older CCC era roads such as the 500 road and the Lolo Motorway. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID - 11)

V-39. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider closing roads as a last resort.

Emphasis should first be given to maintenance, reconstruction, and relocation of roads before closures are considered. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

V-40. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should give higher priority to historic roads.

Heritage Resources: Suggest that a higher priority be given historic roads, so that funding will be available for maintenance to protect their integrity. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 2082)

Road Construction and Reconstruction

V-41. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should limit the construction of new roads on the forests.

My priorities for forest plan revision are: Severely limit the construction of any new roads in the forest. (Individual, LITCHFIELD PARK, AZ - 7093)

V-42. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should prohibit road construction on the forests.

There is no need for a single mile of new road on either the Clearwater or Nez Perce National Forest. The forest plan revision should include an absolute standard that prohibits any new road construction on either forest. This does not mean "no net gain," where the agency constructs new roads but closes an equal amount of old roads. No new roads mean that no roads should be constructed at all . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

The Idaho Conservation League does not support the construction of new roads on the forests. Over eight thousand two hundred and ninety (8,290) miles of road already exist to access the forests! (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

We must preserve this land and not allow roads to spoil its special beauty. Please do not allow roads in this forest. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA - 5378)

V-43. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not consider allowing road construction for the purpose of allowing access for timber companies.

I would also urge that the Forest Service cease the practice of building roads to allow timber company access. The economics of multiple-use should demand that private profits from our national forests should not be subsidized by taxpayer dollars that could be better used for projects that can only exist by public funding. (Individual, PHOENIXVILLE, PA - 4892)

I worked on a survey crew based in McCall but working out in the forest during the week preparing the way, ironically, for logging roads. It is precisely against such development that I urge you make your decisions today. Such roads are destructive of many of the qualities that we cherish in these mountainous areas. (Individual, CAMBRIDGE, MA - 94)

Road Maintenance

V-44. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure roads are properly maintained.

The forest plans should provide the framework necessary to ensure that such roads are properly maintained, especially in light of mounting deficits and the lack of available funding for such work. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

BLADING

Road maintenance (e.g., blading) should be focused on reducing road surface erosion and sediment delivery from roads to area streams. Blading of unpaved roads in a manner that contributes to road erosion and sediment transport to streams and wetlands should be avoided. (Federal Agency/Elected Official, SEATTLE, WA - 7081)

TO PROTECT WATERSHEDS

Road maintenance, too, is a major component of managing watersheds. It is critical to adequately maintain culverts, drainage ditched, sedimentation ponds, and road surfaces to minimize the amount of sediment being transported to waterways. Hence, the travel management framework should propose a travel system that is commensurate with the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests' ability to maintain it. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

EPA also supports management direction that requires inspections and evaluations to identify existing road conditions that cause or contribute to nonpoint source pollution and stream

impairment, and necessary road maintenance to improve road drainage and correct deficiencies. The document should address necessary road maintenance and inspection for closed, but unobliterated, roads. (Federal Agency/Elected Official, SEATTLE, WA - 7081)

Road Removal and Decommissioning

V-45. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should close and restore roads on the forests.

. . . both forests should continue an aggressive program of road obliteration. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

The current emphasis on road obliteration is warranted, and the areas with the highest potential for recovery should be prioritized. We hope to see strong language that will guide road management decisions over the life of the forest plans that will emphasize the obliteration of harmful and unnecessary roads. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

Friends of the Clearwater is working on input to the forest plan revision that includes road and trail management. Now is an opportune time to review roads that have limited use and cause some large impacts, for example the 555 road. There are a number of roads on the forest built in a different era that should be considered for closure and/or obliteration. We hope the revision will fairly access these roads and realize times and needs have changed. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 10868)

TO ACHIEVE GOALS

We encourage both forests to fully utilize road decommissioning as a key restoration tool to achieve the goals stated in the Proposed Action, particularly in those geographic areas where restoration is a proposed goal: Palouse River, Potlatch River, Elk Creek, West North Fork, Weitas, Upper Lochsa, Lolo Pass, Lolo Creek, Middle Lochsa, Selway Front, Horse Creek watershed, South Fork Clearwater, Red River, Lower Salmon East, Coolwater, Lowell, and Middle fork Clearwater. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 5372)

DEVELOP A PRIORITIZED SCHEDULE

(The forests should develop) A prioritized route decommissioning schedule that is implemented through a committed portion of the national forest's staff and annual budget. Prioritization of the schedule should be based principally on the direct, indirect, and cumulative harm caused by the identified route. While factors such as budget and staff should be factored into the equation, they must not be used as excuses to evade the decommissioning process. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

REDUCE ROAD DENSITIES

Road densities in the West North Fork, Lolo Creek, South Fork Clearwater, Red River, and Lolo Pass geographic areas exceed ten miles per square mile in some areas. The Forest Service needs to expand and develop aggressive plan to obliterate these roads and get these roads densities down to a much reduced level to reduce the chronic environmental impact these roads have on these two forests. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

RESTORE WATER QUALITY

More than anything else, roads contribute to a decline in water quality, aquatic habitat, and riparian function. . . . The revised forest plans should be seen as an opportunity to prioritize the removal and obliteration of these roads. Where necessary such roads could be relocated to

more suitable locations, outside the riparian zone. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

To move toward desired future conditions, the road system must be reduced. The forest plans should give clear direction to prioritize roads for decommissioning based upon resource benefits, e.g., reduction in sediment delivered to priority streams. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1169)

SITE-SPECIFIC

Clearwater NF Restoration Obliteration and Closures
1) Fish Butte (483, 481, 5545); 2) Gravy Creek (587, 107); 3) Weitas (555 and 103) before bridge; 4) Mush Saddle (711); 5) Smith Ridge (700); 6) Hidden Fix; 7) Skull Creek; 8) Deception/Osier Ridge (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Nez Perce NF Restoration Obliteration and Closures
1)Jack TS (9551); 2) Noble Timber Sale (?); 3) Grouse TS (?); 4) Mammoth Mine (222 F); 5) Fling Creek (9812); 6) Flatiron (1810); 7) Horse Creek (9822 and 9832); 8) 4-6 mile Timber Sale area; 9) Wing/Twenty Mile/Mackay Day (1875 and associated side roads); 10) White Bird Ridge (624) upper portion; 11) SOB point (356 and side roads) (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Many routes need to be closed and rehabilitated. These include but are not limited to: Elk Summit Road, Tom Beal Road, Savage Ridge Road, Fly Hill Road, North Fork in Black Canyon Road, Toboggan Ridge Road, roads into Gravey Creek, Fish Butte Road, roads into Skull and Quartz Creeks, roads into Isabella Creek, roadsto Weitas Butte, Liz Butte and Horseshoe Lake, Mush Saddle Road, the 555 Road to Weitas Creek, Coolwater Ridge Road, Big Fog Saddle Road, Indian Hill Road, Magruder Road, Square Mountain Road, Sourdough Road, Flatiron Ridge Road, Noble Road, Jack Road and Grouse Road. A process needs to be established in the plan that prioritizes road removal to create connectivity. (Individual, TROY, ID - 4383)

UNITE ROADLESS AREAS

Closure of a few, unnecessary dirt roads could unite the large roadless areas in the North Fork into one whole of over 1,000,000 acres. These areas should be prioritized for obliteration as the roadless policy and the roads policy work together at restoring the destruction that has taken place on our national forests (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Closure and obliteration of roads could unite many of these areas into more integral wholes. . . . A process needs to be established in the plan that prioritizes road removal to create connectivity. (Individual, TROY, ID - 4383)

V-46. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should initiate a systematic road restoration program.

The Forest should also undertake an effort to systematically evaluate its network of system roads, and embark on an orderly restoration program that reduces road miles, road crossings and cut fill slopes on slopes that are highly erosive (such as the granitic based areas in the Lochsa drainage) or prone to mass wasting. A systematic restoration effort aimed at restoring watershed health, floodplain function and woody debris recruitment would do much to eventually restore the much diminished fisheries of the Clearwater National Forest. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 3893)

V-47. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop a guideline requiring consideration of travel opportunities prior to decommissioning.

Decommissioned roads, combined with short constructed connecting trails can create a quality ATV trail system. We recommend that prior to decommissioning roads, recreation travel opportunities for ATV's, mountain bikes, or other alternative forms of transportation should be considered as a guideline for the revised plans. (State Government, BOISE, ID - 3868)

V-48. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the benefits of "complete" obliteration.

The road decommissioning efforts within the Clearwater National Forest have appeared to make great improvements in the areas where full road obliteration was done. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR - 3869)

Emphasize complete obliteration instead of, or in addition to, gating or other partial closure methods. Gating is often ineffective because this method is easily vandalized. Partially closed roads can attract recreationist and are often tempting to irresponsible users. In order to prevent unauthorized use on such routes, we urge the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests to rehabilitate fully these routes immediately after their use has expired. Closing unneeded routes will:

1) Discourage unauthorized use,
2) Reduce the monitoring and enforcement burden on the agency,
3) Provide larger contiguous roadless blocks for wildlife, and
4) Reduce sedimentation in waterways.

In any case, the Forest Service, at a minimum, should employ complete obliteration in areas of high ecological, aesthetic, and/or social values. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

It is difficult to effectively restrict motorized access to public lands and protect them with simple road closures (i.e., gated closures). Road obliteration is a preferred method of road closure. (Federal Agency/Elected Official, SEATTLE, WA - 7081)

V-49. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure obliteration is done in a responsible manner.

Where roads and trails are obliterated, care must be taken to minimize sedimentation, remove noxious weeds, revegetate the area with native plants, and strictly enforce road closures. Although road obliteration will improve water quality in the long term, it will inevitably entail soil disturbance and sedimentation. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

V-50. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should involve the public prior to obliterating routes.

International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) believes the following policies should generally apply on National Forest Lands. Obliteration of redundant and unnecessary routes to enhance ecosystem values is acceptable, if carefully planned with public involvement. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

V-51. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not decommission roads.

We oppose any decommissioning of existing roads in the area. Other less expensive alternatives should be considered before any road is decommissioned. Providing access to forest lands for wildfire prevention and future recreation should always be considered. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID - 1)

Non-System and User-Created Roads

V-52. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should close all user-created routes to motorized travel.

Off-road vehicles should only be allowed on signed, designated routes and all user-created routes should be closed. (Individual, CHENEY, WA - 4903)

User -created routes need to be closed down and rehabilitated to prevent the spread of weeds, and loss of soils. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 45)

The Analysis of the Management situation correctly identifies an increase in user-created and unclassified roads over the past ten years as a growing resource concern. Forest-wide direction to close these roads and insure impacts to wet meadows, water quality and stream sedimentation are reduced is necessary. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1169)

Routes created solely by constant cross-country travel should not be recognized as trails and should be obliterated and revegetated. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID - 136)

V-53. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not include user-created routes in the travel system unless there are compelling reasons to do so.

As a rule, user-created routes should not be officially incorporated into the travel system without compelling circumstances. Rewarding renegade users for their behavior will only provide incentive for additional illegal, user-created trails on the landscape. Compelling circumstance may occur when: a) the authorized route serves the needs of the public and the environment better than a system route, and the corresponding system route is officially closed, obliterated and revegetated; b) closely paralleled routes (within 50') are crested to accommodate separate uses (such as mountain bikes and hiking/horse riding) in heavily traveled areas; or c) routes are added to concentrate and accommodate recreation in areas close to residential areas and are accompanied by reductions in backcountry route mileage and recreational pressure. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

V-54. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not allow user-created routes to be incorporated in future transportation systems.

. . . the travel management framework should clearly state that no future unauthorized, user-created routes will be included in future travel management plans, that future travel planning will automatically take the position that user routes will be closed and obliterated, and that the only routes that will be added to the system after this effort are those that have gone through the established public process and undergone scientific analysis. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

V-55. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the inclusion of non-system routes in the transportation system.

The non-system routes were constructed in the past by forest logging and mining operations. Some of these non-system routes need to be considered when designating a travel system. Non-system routes can provide valuable recreation opportunities when combined with system routes. (State Government, BOISE, ID - 3868)

Trails Management

General Comments

V-56. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop a trail system from existing roads and trails.

Consideration needs to be given to developing a trail system that uses existing roads and trails, with interpretive signs and utilizing old lookouts that already exist. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4461)

The existing network of roads and trails in the planning area should be considered an inventory with which to develop recreational trail systems. . . . The FS must recognize that providing for OHV use and protecting the environment means fully utilizing the inventory of existing roads and trails. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 10861)

V-57. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the benefits of a good trails network.

A good trail network serves the purpose of allowing access to the forest, without most of the negative impacts of a road network. (Individual, REDLANDS, CA - 940)

V-58. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop a trail inventory prior to proposing trail closures.

There has not been enough time for users of trails or potential users of trails to inventory trails of interest. Considering the area occupied by the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests, such an inventory, to be fair and comprehensive, would take several years. However, without such an inventory, any trail closures will be arbitrary unless justified by pressing environmental concerns. Enough time should be allowed for such an inventory to take place before significant trail closures are carried out. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 3849)

V-59. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should preserve the existing trails system.

The only valid reason to close trail or areas should be to protect the environment or wildlife from significant threats. While some trail users do abuse their privilege of use, the amount of documented abuse is far below that required to justify widespread trail closures. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 3849)

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

Considering the amount of public land available in the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests, the mileage of these (off-highway vehicle) trails is a drop in the bucket compared to what could be provided for off road recreation. If users are forced to use a narrowly limited amount of the total mileage potentially available, damage to the "approved" areas will be increases,

possibly leading to governmental decisions to close even portions of the "approved" trails. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 3849)

SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS

Under current management, Backcounrty Horsemen are seeing our trails transportation system decreased in both size and serviceability. To a certain extent this may be the function of decreasing budgets, but it is also a conscious strategy on the part of extremist groups, and sympathizers within the agency, to render these areas "pristine" and inaccessible. The efforts of local wilderness extremist groups to eliminate of downgrade the condition of trails in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness to a point that recreational pack and saddle stock would be included serve as ongoing examples of this effort. (Non-Motorized/Non-Mechanized Recreation, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 3873)

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Timber management should always respect trails. Any trails harmed by logging should be rerouted or replaced, during or before logging, not afterward. There should be standards, not just guidelines that will protect trails during timber sales and other vegetation management. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

V-60. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should protect historic trails.

Be mindful to protect the Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce Trails from overuse and development. (Individual, CUPERTINO, CA - 5428)

The new management language for these historic trails should include, at a minimum, the following trails and trail systems, all of which are visible (at least in part) and are known to trail historians:
Southern Nez Perce Trail
Elk City to Salmon City Trail (via Salmon Mtn. and Lantz Bar)
Boise Trail (Seven Devils)
Ne mee Puu Trail
Bird-Traux Trail
Lolo Trail
Trail to the Buffalo (the route that parallels the Lolo Trail, but to the North)
Weippe-Kamiah Trail across Lolo Creek (chiefly a BLM concern)
(Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 25)

The original trails that the Lewis and Clark expedition used have in many cases been obliterated, and replaced with recreational trails in different locations. This is the wrong approach. Preserving this cultural resource means preserving the original route as it was, regardless of recreational utility. The original route must be fully mapped and documented by scholars of the expedition and restored. In addition, there should be a large zone on each side of the route for which the overriding goal should be to maintain the character of the land as it was in the time of Lewis and Clark. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 38)

SUGGESTED STANDARDS

Idaho Environmental Council (IEC) strongly believes that the following standards should be the very minimum level protection for these trails, and would encourage the development of even stronger ones: The goal of all historic trail management should be full retention and protection from further modification and/or abandonment of any kind. The new forest plans should direct that over as short a time period as possible, a full and comprehensive effort should be made to locate and mark the trail tread locations of the historic trail system. The

historic trail system should be maintained, at the least necessary level, to ensure passage on the trails by foot (many used that way since 9000 BP) and horse (used since ca. 1730). No further construction of trails that replace or parallel historic routes should be permitted, and where those recently- built parallel routes now exist, planning for their elimination should be a forest plan component. No new crossing of historic trails by roads or motorized access trails should be permitted. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 25)

V-61. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should restrict motorized vehicles from trails.

Forest trails should be managed for non-motorized use. Please require that motor vehicles be restricted to roads. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 3762)

V-62. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should distinguish between non-motorized uses when considering the impacts of trails.

Land managers should be careful in discriminating between non-motorized uses when considering the ecological impacts of trails. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4387)

V-63. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should fund trail reconstruction and maintenance from a dedicated fund.

Funding for reconstruction and maintenance should be a dedicated fund in the budget and not diverted to other forest uses. (Motorized Recreation, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 2103

Trails Construction/Reconstruction

V-64. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider roads-to-trails conversions.

International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) approves of roads to trails conversions, which can enhance environmental conditions and improve recreation experiences. But please do not limit or push bicycling only to those kinds of routes. . . . When converting roads to trails, it is important that the road not remain open to any wide vehicle travel, including agency administrative use, because wide vehicles will prevent reestablishment of the vegetation that eventually narrows a road into a trail. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID- 4387)

V-65. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should complete the Idaho Centennial Trail system.

Also, the Idaho Centennial Trail system for motorized travel needs to be expanded to complete the motorized portion through the Clearwater & Nez Perce National Forest. There is a portion of trail on the Clearwater Ranger District of the Nez Perce Nation Forest in the Hungry Ridge, Johns Creek, Cougar Creek area that needs the revision team consideration to complete the centennial trail from south to north. Please contact me on what can be done on this project. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 4882)

Loop Trails

V-66. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should maintain and develop loop trail systems for motorized users.

The integrity of the "loop" trail system should be maintained. Loop systems minimize the number of on-trail encounters because non-motorized trail users don't encounter motorized users going both directions, as they do on non-loop trails. Loop trails also offer trail users a more desirable recreational experience. Agencies are encouraged to provide opportunity for "motorized loop trail systems" to lessen impacts and to provide a better recreational experience. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

Citizens will come from all across the nation to enjoy the forests if there are well advertised, well managed, and well signed trails. Loop trails that give a starting point which addresses the history of the area and point of interest along the way where you can stop and get connected to the land. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 2)

The Orofino Chamber of Commerce proposes that the Clearwater National Forest continue to allow access to those established roads and trails that are currently open to work with groups such as play, the snowmobile clubs and others to connect other opportunities for loops that will be accessed by the public. (Business, OROFINO, ID - 4377)

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

Due to the increasing numbers of ATV's, the Forest Service needs to make more loops of old logging roads available for those people to ride. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4394)

MOTOR BIKES

A meaningful experience to a motor biker is a single-track trail preferably a loop trail, about 55-65 miles in length of varying degrees of difficulty, conditions and terrain. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 27)

Trails Maintenance

V-67. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should upgrade the Idaho Centennial Trail.

Planning should be initiated to have this route (Idaho Centennial Trail) upgraded to standard before the next forest plan revision. (Motorized Recreation, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 2103)

V-68. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should maintain trails, not close them.

Utilize all trail maintenance and upgrading management techniques, such as, bridging, puncheon, realignment, drains, and dips to prevent closure or loss of motorized trail use. Trails should not be closed because of a problem with a bad section of trail. The solution is to fix the problem area or reroute the trail, not to close it. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

Where the agency faces a problem of heavy erosion or other physical problems on a trail, you should not jump first to the option of closing the route to particular user groups. Instead, please ask, can the trail be fixed? What is the real problem, types of use, or design? Is the trail receiving heavy equestrian travel? (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

Non-System and User-Created Trails

V-69. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should close all user-created routes.

All existing unauthorized, user-created (OHV) routes should be closed and restored to a natural condition. (Individual, CATONSVILLE, MD – 1928)

V-70. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should inventory all trails before defining the trails system.

Trails not appearing on agency maps are now called "illegitimate trails" but they may not be. They simply need to be inventoried. We are also confronted with "unauthorized or closed" trails. However, our understanding of the law is that all existing trails are open unless marked "closed" both on the ground and on agency maps. This is an issue that must be addressed in the new plan. (Motorized Recreation, WHITE BIRD, ID - 32)

V-71. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recognize the need that exists for off-highway vehicle trails.

OHV users, therefore, are unfairly criticized for the increase in “resource conflicts,” and “proliferation of new, unplanned roads and trails.” Although these are important concerns that must be addressed in this planning effort, the situation is not reflective of “out of control” OHV users as much as indicator of the unmet demand for recreational infrastructure. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

Road and Trail Structures

V-72. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should explore alternatives to traditional mapping and signing.

This report states that there is absolutely not enough money for maintenance including signage. I recommend researching electronic GPS and other GIS mapping technology and making the information available on website for downloading. This would allow forest visitors to more easily navigate the system of roads and trails, along with improving mapping technology and transferring road and trail restrictions more effectively to the forest system users. (Individual, JULIAETTA, ID - 4886)

V-73. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should address the need for properly-sized culverts.

Culverts should be properly sized to handle flood events, and pass bedload and woody debris, and should be properly aligned with the stream channel. Undersized culverts should be replaced and culverts which are not properly aligned or which present fish passage problems and/or serve as barriers to fish migration should be adjusted. Bridges or open bottom culverts that simulate stream grade and substrate and that provide adequate capacity for flood flows, bedload and woody debris are recommended to minimize adverse fisheries effects of road stream crossings. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA - 7081)

V-74. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure facilities are accessible.

Where appropriate, facilities should be constructed that are disabled access friendly. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

V-75. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should provide trailheads for popular trails.

Agencies are encouraged to provide trailheads for popular trails. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 10861)

V-76. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should mark and sign recreational trails.

Utilize standardized trail signing and marking in order to lessen confusion. Trails closed unless otherwise marked open are not reasonable. Trails, when closed, should be signed with an official, legitimate reason. Monitoring should be implemented to justify the reasons stated. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 10861)

IDAHO CENTENNIAL TRAIL

The Idaho Centennial Trail should be identified and signed through both the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forest. (Motorized Recreation, Grangeville, ID – 2103)

V-77. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should establish wash stations for forest travelers.

The forests, in the planning process, should consider establishing wash stations for all traffic leaving Grangeville, Kamiah or Kooskia and Powell that would quickly and efficiently remove the weed seeds from the vehicles that use Highway 12. Just as all logging machinery is washed now before it returns to the woods. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID - 3867)

V-78. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not install any more gates.

No more gates. (Individual, ELK CITY, ID - 3802)

Chapter 6 – Recreation Management

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Recreation Management

Recreation and Access

General Comments

VI-1. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure that management of recreation opportunities is based on maintaining the integrity of the landscape.

The Wilderness Society strongly believes that the Forest Service (FS) should manage all forms of recreation; pedestrian, equestrian, mechanized, and motorized, in such a way that maintains the fundamental ecological nature and integrity of the landscape. Not only is this the FS's legal mandate, but also virtually all other uses of the land will suffer if ecological integrity is compromised. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

VI-2. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should be mindful of the value of an ecologically sound landscape.

I love to visit these lands enjoy the peace and quiet, and the photographic opportunities, both in person or in theory, it doesn't matter. Knowing they are there and in good ecological shape is enough for those at a distance. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID - 139)

VI-3. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should plan for a recreation system that will accommodate changes over time.

It is critical that the FS plan a transportation and a recreation system that will still work effectively long into the future when the modes and amounts of recreation might be considerably different. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

VI-4. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the potential impacts of increasing recreation demands.

We were disappointed that the Proposed Action did not discuss current recreational impacts, whether the Forest Service has considered or calculated potential increase in recreational demand (or changes in types of activities). Nor does the Proposed Action indicate how the FS intends the plan to provide for growth in recreational demand, except in the most general terms. Considering the potential environmental impact of changes in recreational demand and changes in types of recreation in the forest, we believe it is critical to more fully integrate recreation management into the overall ecosystem management strategies for the forest. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID - 3853)

Increasing human recreation use, combined with more powerful motorized vehicles used on and off Clearwater and Nez Perce Forest roads and trails has resulted in adverse impacts to terrestrial and aquatic habitats and associated wildlife and fish species that were not addressed in the existing Plans. Listed species such as grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) and gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) are vulnerable to impacts from increased human access and disturbance. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID - 2083)

VI-5. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the potential for impacts on cultural heritage sites from increased access and resultant increasing recreational uses.

Cultural heritage sites are prone to disturbance from recreational uses. Increased access, vandalism and damage to heritage sites are direct impacts that must be assessed. Motorized recreation has a high potential to adversely impact heritage resources. Motorized vehicles passing through or near prehistoric or historic cultural sites and pale ontological sites can damage or destroy their archaeological value by breaking, burying, or scattering artifacts. They can also expose buried sites by accelerating the erosion of soil surface layers. The proposed revisions should consider the potential for damage. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

VI-6. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider development of "backyard accessible" recreation.

The Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests should develop a long-term travel system vision oriented toward "backyard accessible" recreation, which provides opportunities for recreation close to the communities around the forests. This approach will allow for greater resource protection for important areas for wildlife. Providing for 'backyard recreation' must always be balanced with the need to protect these lower-elevation ecological communities. Seasonal restrictions or closures may be appropriate to protect these areas when planning for recreational use. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

VI-7. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the level of access.

ALLOW MORE ACCESS

The key that will allow this proposal to succeed is access. The Forest Service and any other group that would like to improve forest health will need more access into the forest not less access. Humans working with nature will achieve these goals. We must not close the gates and trails and turn our backs on Mother Nature. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 1164)

CONTINUE ACCESS

Provide continued forest access for all classes of users. Access is essential for enjoyment of the forests and also for adequate fire protection. (Agriculture Association, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 3854)

The concern with too few designated trails on the national forest system is that other areas will be overly impacted; therefore threatening the very resource we all wish to protect and enjoy. It is also a public safety issue which will put an additional tax burden on our emergency management system and law enforcement agencies. When more users are in one area, the likelihood of accidents increases dramatically. (County Elected Official, OROFINO, ID - 2096)

LIMIT ACCESS

I urge you to keep the forest as closed as possible with only limited use, especially by vehicles of any type. (Individual, TUCSON, AZ - 5430)

VI-8. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider limiting access to designated routes.

International Mountain Bicycling Association believes . . . . (that) in some areas of high use or sensitive habitat, all recreationists should be limited to travel on designated routes only. All recreational use has impacts. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

Simply locking a gate on a road does practically nothing to deny access as many people drive their ATV's, motor cycles, or snowmobiles around the gate. A great example of this is the Lost Lake and Little Lost Lake area on Little North Fork of the Clearwater River. Even though this area has been "non-motorized" for years the motorcycle and ATV crowd have destroyed it. Go look for yourself. (Individual, WASILLA, AK - 5388)

VI-9. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure coordination of designated uses with adjacent landowners and managers.

The forests should ensure that designating uses on roads and trails are compatible with designated uses on adjacent land. The Forest Service should coordinate with other state, federal and county agencies to ensure that signage, regulations and communication with the public are consistent across boundaries. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

VI-10. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should evaluate recreational use patterns.

Recreational use patterns should be evaluated across geographical boundaries for adequate disclosure and analysis of the effects of strategic decision making each alternative will have on the human environment. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

Motorized users are a minority of visitor use on public lands. According to the Forest Service's visitor's survey, only 8.8 percent of visitors said off-highway vehicle travel (4-wheelers, dirt bikes, etc.) was their primary activity on the Clearwater National Forest and 6 percent on the Nez Perce National Forest. People who said relaxing, hanging out, escaping noise and heat, etc., was a much higher percent of their primary activity on both forests (30 and 17 percent respectively). (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VI-11. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider management options for recreation opportunities where conflicts exist among user groups pursuing different activities.

Because one individual or group objects to another's activities, there is no reason to halt the actions of the majority on the basis of a few complaints. There will always be the selfish individual. (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT - 3890)

If one-half of us value roadless, and one-half of us value roaded access – that is what we had - in 1990 - before wild, back country trails were improved, and motorized access invasion began. So I would recommend limiting motorized use to roads only - and giving us one-half of a wild forest . . . . (Individual, WEIPPE, ID - 1121)

Implementation level planning should encourage rerouting conflicting users so as to avoid sections of roads or trails that are extremely popular with both groups. For example, a hiking trail can be constructed to avoid a section of popular OHV routes. Or an equestrian trail may be constructed to avoid a section of popular mountain bike route, etc. Disperse all forms of recreational use so as to minimize conflict and create a more desirable experience. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

The science of conservation biology indicates that a high a density of roads, and by inference trails, can have deleterious effects on wildlife. This is another reason to have shared use trails; single use routes create a desire among user groups for "separate but equal" treatment. When an agency fulfills that request, route densities increase. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

All citizen owners of the public lands must be treated equitably. When striving for compromise all parties must have an equal chance of winning or losing. The public land agencies must manage conflict in the context of its real importance in the given situation. They must also recognize that we don't have enough public lands that offer high quality recreation experiences to give every recreation pursuit its own exclusive access area. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4388)

. . . . User conflicts must be investigated and documented better than in past incidences. User conflict must be substantiated with proper documentation and evidence of the conflict and not just receiving claims. (Individual, JULIAETTA, ID - 4886)

Sharing routes when possible (e.g., when not a safety hazard and does not result in a degraded experience for one or more groups of users) is preferable to separating uses. However, it is clear that certain types of uses are incompatible and must be separated so that user conflict is minimized. For instance, high levels of snowmobile use and backcountry skiing on the same slopes are generally incompatible. Similarly, motorized or mechanized use and horse riding are often incompatible, if not dangerous. However, separation of uses does not mean creating redundant routes. Nor does it mean developing separate trail systems for each type of recreation. It means allocating one part of the travel system for one type of use and another for another type of use, resulting in no net gain of travel way miles. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

The Forest Service should disperse all forms of recreational use. Dispersing all forms of recreational use over a larger area will result in fewer impacts in any particular area. Disperse all forms of recreational use so as to minimize conflict and create a more desirable experience. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

VI-12. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the differences between motorized and non-motorized recreation experiences.

Minimize conflict between motorized and non-motorized users. A key component of all types of non-motorized recreation is quiet. Although the presence of non-motorized recreationists rarely bothers motorized users, it takes only a few encounters with a motorized vehicle to considerably degrade the experience of a non-motorized recreationist. Forest Service regulations require the Forest Service to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands (36 CFR 295.2 (b) (3)). (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

International Mountain Bicycling Association believes the following policies should generally apply on National Forest Lands. Land managers need to understand the importance of single track to bicyclists. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

Blue Ribbon Coalition suggests the following goals and objectives be incorporated into each alternative in order to improve management of motorized and non-motorized recreation.
Issue: Safety
Goal: Provide for a safe environment for OHV use, weighing expectations for risk and challenge, through identification of appropriate designated routes.
Objectives

Educating the vehicle-assisted visitor of where the road or trail might be shared with non-motorized visitors, and encouraging slower speeds and a more courteous ethic in these areas. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

VI-13. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider management of vehicle-based recreation.

Off-highway vehicle recreation goal: Vehicle Assisted Recreation and Access (VARA) recreation is recognized as an acceptable use of the national forest. The goal should be to use proven recreation management principles to manage vehicle-based recreation that is sustainable, manageable and enforceable. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

VI-14. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should create more access and recreation opportunity.

All too often, recreationists must resort to creating valuable recreational experiences by themselves, with no guidance, input or assistance from land managers. Routes originally constructed for mineral location and development and livestock grazing have been connected and are now used for recreational purposes. Land managers have created little in the way of recreational opportunity. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

International Bicycling Association believes the following policies should generally apply on National Forest Lands. Land managers need to understand the importance of single track to bicyclists. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

Every time recreation has a chance to increase you have regulated it so increases can not occur. Examples are the Lewis and Clark trail and float permits on the rivers. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4379)

FS should use valid recreational management principles, i.e., providing a variety of experiences, challenges, including loop trails, trails to breathtaking views, connecting existing routes etc. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

I have several concerns with the "change in emphasis wording." Improved management of motorized and non-motorized recreation opens the door for drastic restrictions for local recreation. You yourself, admit that it means a decrease in areas open for summer and winter motorized uses. That is the only recreation many of us in Idaho County take part in. I would like to see you be more forest user friendly instead of more restrictive. (Individual, KOOSKIA, ID - 5370)

VI-15. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop an access management plan.

Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth has called unmanaged recreation, specifically unmanaged off-road vehicle use, one of the most important issues facing the agency. The Forest Service is in the process of revising its management regulations pertaining to off-road vehicles. While those final regulations have yet to be adopted, the Forest Service will still be obliged to take steps to protect forest resources from off-road vehicle damage. In 1972, President Richard Nixon signed Executive Order 11644 in an attempt to provide a unified federal policy to control the use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVS) on all federal lands. This Executive Order (EO) was later amended and strengthened by President Jimmy Carter with Executive Order 11989. These EOs require that the use of ATVs on public lands must be managed to "protect the resource of those lands, to promote the safety of all users of those lands, and to minimize conflicts among the various uses of those lands." These EOs also

require that when ATV routes are designated, federal land managers must minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, and other land resources, minimize wildlife harassment and impacts to wildlife habitat, and minimize conflicts between ATV use and other uses of the land. In response to EO 11644, as amended, the USFS promulgated regulations and policies governing the management of ATVs on National Forests. These regulations specifically pertain to the designation of "specific areas and trails of National Forest System lands on which the use of vehicles traveling off National Forest development roads is allowed, restricted or prohibited," 36 C.F.R. 295.1, and closely follow the guidelines established in the guidelines established in the Executive Orders.
The FS needs to develop an access management plan for the Clearwater and Nez Perce Nation Forests that is in compliance with Executive Order 11644 and 11989, which required that all areas and trails on public lands be designated "open" or "closed" to off-road vehicle use. These orders state that off-road vehicle use may be permitted only where it will result in (1) minimal damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, and other public lands resources; (2) minimal harassment of wildlife; and (3) minimal conflict between motorized recreationists and non motorized recreationists. The access management plan must also comply with NFMA regulations that state "off-road vehicle use shall be planned and implemented to protect land and other resources, promote public safety, and minimize conflicts with other uses of the national forest system lands. Forest planning shall evaluate the potential effects of vehicle use off roads and, classify areas and trails as to whether or not off road vehicle use may be permitted." Overall goals of an access management plan should include: 1. Ensuring that recreation and travel is sustainable so that ecosystems retain their ecological integrity including an historic species diversity and richness; 2. Providing a functional transportation system while preserving the ruggedness, wildness, and habitat value of the area.. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

For being a major area of concern, access management was not addressed in some GAs very well. Motorized and non-motorized are mentioned in the same breath many times. Since when has non-motorized access been a concern? Some GA's only mention recreational opportunities in areas with roads. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID- 3769)

Forest planning for recreation is needed to identify priorities for development, if any, maintenance, upgrading, or downgrading of facilities, to determine overall goals for national forests recreation, and to assess carrying capacity. What type, where, and whether recreation development, takes place will be of major interest to the public, as will long-term planning and goal setting for national forest recreation to determine what types and manner of recreation are appropriate on public lands and where. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

An "Idaho Outdoor Recreation Demand Assessment" recently conducted by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation found that top outdoor recreation issues of importance to Idaho are protecting water quality, protecting natural resources on public lands, controlling invasive species, and education youth and adults about natural resources and the environment. Providing ATV trail systems are only ranked 17th in importance. The Forest Service should feel little need to provide extensive ATV loop trails.
(Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

We strongly recommend that the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests make aggressive use of the various management tools at their disposal; in conjunction with should science and the spatial analysis techniques described in these comments, to design a protective access management plan. Distilled to their essence, an access management plan that consists of two interdependent components; 1) an initial, baseline transportation system and 2) an adaptive ecosystem management framework designed to guide and inform the public and the FS in all

future transportation management decisions. Consistent with the national forest's protective purpose, a protective access management plan provides the best hope of ensuring the national forest's long term health and integrity while providing the public with access to use and experience the splendid, irreplaceable landscape of the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

VI-16. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the encroachment of noxious weeds via the use of trails.

Any trails that become heavily traveled by motorized vehicles and mountain bikes experience ever increasing encroachment of knapweed and leafy spurge and other weeds. (Individual, CLINTON, MT - 3900)

VI-17. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the impact of various recreational user types on wildlife.

Among the many parameters of wildlife impact are duration of impact, noise, and startling. Generally hikers have longest duration, mountain bikers startle more, and more motorcycles cause more noise, but there is little evidence to support any statements regarding the relative significance of these effects. The diversity of species affected greatly compounds the complexity. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

VI-18. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider a range of recreation opportunities to serve the needs of people of all ages.

Blueribbon Coalition suggests the following goal . . . be incorporated into each alternative in order to improve management of motorized and non-motorized recreation. Provide a reasonable range of access opportunity to see the backcountry through OHV use by youth, the aging population and the physically handicapped. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

Create recreation experiences to help our younger generations over come rampant childhood obesity through the enjoyment of our national forest on mountain bikes. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

VI-19. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the potential effects of national forest recreation opportunities on local economies.

I hope the Forest Service considers very heavily the impact of the availability of recreational land on the local economy. To limit the recreational opportunity by shutting down roads or closing areas to the public for whatever reason, will not help improve the local economy. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 3766)

In order for our community to continue to remain economically viable, it is imperative that we continue to have motorized and non motorized access to the land as well as continued forest management through logging. (Business, OROFINO, ID -4377)

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

VI-20. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider a range of recreation opportunities for inclusion in forest plan revisions.

Recreation Management - This is one of the most neglected and under funded program on the two forests. This is the area where the forest really meets the public, yet, it receives the least

amount of attention as far too much effort is focused in the endless planning cycle. This program is where the rubber meets the road and you really need some new tread. With the baby boomers aging you need to look at what kinds of recreation opportunities you are providing. They want more opportunities to observe and understand nature, learn the history of an area, watch wildlife, pick berries and mushrooms, etc. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 5434)

VI-21. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider a balance between motorized and non-motorized recreation.

A better balance between motorized and non-motorized recreation. Less ATVs, more non-motorized roads and trails. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID - 31)

The balance of recreational opportunities on the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forest heavily favors the side of non-motorized use. For example, there are approximately forty (40) lakes in the North Fork of the Clearwater River drainage. You can legally ride an ATV to one lake, and legally ride a motorcycle to four lakes. Current motorized access should be maintained while increasing the possibilities for ATV's. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4394)

I appreciate the need to provide opportunities for the growing motorized recreation community. I simply ask that you also provide easily-accessible (i.e., non-wilderness area) quiet recreation opportunities as well. (Business, SANTA FE, NM - 5359)

Access to National Forest lands has emerged as a controversial issue with a very high level of interest. The Forest Service must strike a balance between the demands for access and other, sometimes conflicting, management objectives. Although not an easy task, it is one that must be accomplished in order to maintain the values of our forests and the economies of our communities. (Elected Officials, WASHINGTON, DC - 10869)

VI-22. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider that too few trails can cause resource and safety problems.

The concern with too few designated trails on the national forest system is that other areas will be overly impacted; therefore threatening the very resource we all wish to protect and enjoy. It is also public safety issue which will put an additional tax burden on our emergency management system and law enforcement. When more users are in one area, the likelihood of accidents increases dramatically. (Business, OROFINO, ID - 4377)

VI-23. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider a range of experiences for off-highway vehicle recreationists.

Goal: Actively manage OHV use by providing an extension designated route trail system that satisfies the experience desired by OHV recreationists, which keys upon the monitoring factors of customer satisfaction, education, compliance and enforcement. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

Allow motorized access and recreation to continue to exist on all roads and trails on areas that motorized access and recreation that has not specifically been restricted to such use by an act of Congress. (Individual, JULIAETTA, ID - 4886)

Both Forests have made a start on trying to provide ATV opportunities. We encourage further development of these opportunities. The best opportunities that the Forests have are developing some of the decommissioned roads into ATV loop opportunities. (State Government Agency, BOISE, ID - 3868)

VI-24. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider access for disabled recreationists.

We have a need for access to many regions of the forest especially for handicapped citizens. I have listened to many citizens who have disabled/handicapped access needs and would like to reach some of the lakes our national forests have to offer. I believe there are roads that should be opened and roads that should be closed-we need to decide together. (Individual, COTTONWOOD, ID - 142)

VI-25. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider recreation access for future generations.

It is important that we keep the area open for use so our children will be able to enjoy many of the areas that we do today. We understand that with more people wanting to access the backcountry it has presented some problems for management, but we do try to practice good stewardship while in the forest. (Motorized Recreation, OROFINO, ID - 3901)

Enforcement Issues

VI-26. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider off-highway vehicle use in light of responsible and irresponsible use.

Acknowledge irresponsible off-highway vehicle use and promote responsible use. The analysis should contain a section on documented and scientifically proven examples of environmental degradation and recreational conflicts poses by OHV users. The Forest Service needs to cite these cases when explaining the need for increased regulations to user groups who maintain that OHVs are not the problem. Issues to raise include stream degradation, alpine meadow destruction, spread of noxious weeds, wildlife displacement, and conflicts, including safety issues, with non-motorized users. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

VI-27. The Clearwater and Nez Perce planning team should consider that many off-highway vehicle recreationists monitor themselves.

Visual inspection is always the best way to monitor anything. I have seen trail bike riders monitoring themselves for years - no litter, staying on the trails watch for other users, staying out of sensitive areas, helping rebuild problem areas. I have ridden with snowmobiler's who do similar things. This is what the forest needs. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 1162)

Enhance OHV user accountability and responsibility to ensure common sense compliance among the majority of riders so that law enforcement can handle the smaller percentage of willful abusers. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

VI-28. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider ensuring an adequate number of enforcement officers for the number of off-highway vehicle trails.

The Forest Service must require that any analysis of a new OHV trail should include a reasonable estimate of how many enforcement officers would be needed to prevent violations. In ecologically-sensitive areas, or areas that receive a lot of seasonal use (hunting season) the number of OHV users should be limited to the capacity of the Forest Service to effectively manage use. The Forest Service should work with local recreation groups, both motorized and non-motorized, to assist agency staff with enforcement through self-policing

efforts and citizen patrols. These efforts should enhance, not replace, Forest Service, county or state enforcement. Fines for repeat offenders should include seizure of vehicles. Enforcement of current closures is also key to successfully eliminating cross-country travel when the designation process is complete. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

. . . . it goes without saying that much more emphasis needs to be put on regulation of ATV travel whether or not that traffic is in potential wilderness lands. The need is urgent. If there is a shortage of manpower and money to enforce rules . . . . Let us enlist the help of both environmental and ATV groups to form joint patrols. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA - 3283)

VI-29. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider increased monitoring and enforcement.

It would . . . be very helpful to have increased monitoring and enforcement in areas with history of motorized/mechanized violations of wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

VI-30. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider including collaboration with local law enforcement agencies in forest plan revisions.

. . . It is important that local law enforcement issues be at the table when decisions about the Clearwater National Forest are made. We would like to join you in protecting the resource from damage but in also utilizing the resource for the community. We all need to be aware of the needs of the community in which we live and the economic viability. (County Elected Official, OROFINO, ID - 2096)

VI-31. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure management of road or trail closures.

When limits or closures are imposed, but the public isn't informed and educated, when the boundaries are not properly posted, and when the regulatory actions are not consistently and aggressively enforced they become not only ineffective but also counterproductive. Unmanaged closures are irresponsible and create an enormous mess. Through excessive and unenforceable "management" the agency has worsened any threat from "unmanaged recreation." Those closures you feel are absolute necessities should be imposed, managed, properly posted and effectively enforced. Those that cannot be classified as critical or which cannot be fully implemented and properly enforced should be dropped or postpone, not unlike other aspects of project level planning within the agency. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4388)

VI-32. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should prohibit motorized use off designated routes to simplify enforcement and lessen confusion.

. . . prohibit. . . motorized use off designated routes. This greatly simplifies management and leads to less confusion for the public. Given the extremely limited law enforcement found on most forests and grasslands this policy also allows simpler public education and guidance. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR - 3869)

Motorized Recreation

General Comments

VI-33. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should define actions and strategies in forest plan revisions to minimize conflicts.

Motorized use has become a major source of environmental degradation and user conflict on the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests. The forests must manage motorized recreation so that user conflict is minimized (as required per 36 CFR 295), and management standards, goals, and objectives are met. This strategy will require aggressive monitoring, signage, education, outreach to organize groups of motorized user and law enforcement. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

. . . it is essential that recreation and travel are managed within a regional, environmental and social context. Protecting visual resources, water quality, rare plants and native vegetation, wildlife habitats, hunting and fishing opportunities, solitude, and quiet will hinge, in large part, on FS's willingness and ability to manage and reduce social and ecological conflicts resulting from motorized recreation. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

In managing recreation and responding to assertions of conflict, managers need to evaluate the real importance of these alleged conflicts to the well being of society as a whole. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4388)

The Executive Orders (regarding OHVs) set up three goals, all given equal weight, in directing land managers to regulate OHV use so as to "minimize" damage or conflicts; one is resource protection, one is safety of users and the third is minimizing conflicts among recreational users.
. . . the last thing (the agency) should do is to impose restrictions that further reduce the area where motorized use is permitted. To do so would force the growing OHV use into a smaller area, increasing the conflicts among users in those areas, including non-motorized and mechanized users, who would still be using these areas. . . . A more responsible approach . . . would be to disperse all forms of recreational use and perhaps even open trails previously closed to OHV use. Dispersing all forms of recreational use over a larger area will result in fewer impacts in any particular area.. . . . (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 10861)

The Executive Order requires that damage be minimized, not "effects" . . . Any perceived "damage" must be objectively quantified and measured against possible mitigation and management efforts. This is the key to properly balance recreational use and protection of resources. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 10861)

While it may be true that vehicle-assisted visitors bother some non-motorized visitors, it is not true that these uses are mutually exclusive. In fact, I have personally found most non-motorized visitors to be perfectly happy to share. Additionally, I have been present in many instances where motorized visitors have offered assistance (sometimes lifesaving assistance) to non-motorized visitors. We find it very unfortunate that wilderness advocates seem to encourage and even teach an ethic of intolerance of certain public land visitors. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 10861)

Proper management is the key to reducing conflict and (Blue Ribbon Coalition) suggests that other management options, aside from closure, be implemented. Such options could include, but certainly would not be limited to: Educating the non-motorized visitors about when and where they may encounter vehicle traffic as well as informing them of areas where they may avoid such encounters. Educating the vehicle-assisted visitor of where the road or trail might

be shared with non-motorized visitors, and encouraging slower speeds and a more courteous ethic in these areas. Re-routing either use so as to avoid sections of roads or trails that are extremely popular with both groups. . . .Dispersing all forms of recreational use so as to minimize conflict and create a more desirable experience. Executive Orders 11644 and 11989 allow agencies to "minimize conflicts among the various uses". The Executive Orders did not state "minimize conflict with other users". "Use" conflict is rather different from "user" conflict . . . . (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 10861)

VI-34. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the impacts of vehicles on Indian hunting and gathering rights.

Native Americans should be allowed continue their traditional hunting and gathering without the intrusion of cars and trucks. (Individual, LONGMONT, CO - 715)

VI-35. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the increase in usage of the trail system, and its ramifications.

All usage, including ATV and snowmobile, on the Clearwater National Forest have gone through the roof in the last several years, we need to be cognizant of these activities and be aware of the potential impact to the areas in which the users will impact the forest. Although there are exceptions, most users of established road and trail systems in the Clearwater National Forest are good law-abiding stewards of the land. These good stewards continue to monitor their own actions as well as others to that access will not be in jeopardy. (County Elected Official, OROFINO, ID - 2096)

All 4-wheeled vehicles, regardless of size (pick up, Hummer, or 4-wheeler) should be categorized the same. Though regulation is prohibitive, I am concerned with the staggering number of 4-wheeled off highway vehicles used on the forest, and especially those used for hunting. I am concerned with the damage I see caused by users leaving the roads and trails. All 4-wheeled vehicles use should be limited to roads and trails. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID - 544)

VI-36. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the effects of motorized recreation on big-game populations.

Off road activities, such as ORVs, appear to have a substantial effect on elk behavior. Researchers at the Starkey Research Station in central Oregon found that elk were three times as likely to leave when a person traveled through an area on an ATV compared to hiking or riding a horse. Elk were twice as likely to react to an ATV compared to a mountain bike. Researchers also found that elk reacted to an ATV in a manner identical to that of a full-sized vehicle traveling on a road. Furthermore, when disturbed by a hiker, mountain biker or a person on horseback, elk moved from 500 to 1000 yards away. When disturbed by an ATV, elk moved an average of 2000 yards. Furthermore, animal energy budgets also may be adversely affected by loss of foraging opportunities while responding to off road activities, both from increased movements and from displacement from foraging habitat. . . . It is clear that if the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests want to maintain and rebuild their reputation for big game populations, the Forest Service has to crack down on ATV use on these two forests. Security areas must be identified and closed to motorized use. Seasonal restrictions will have to be developed for important habitat areas. Elk are not the only animals sensitive to ORV traffic. Bighorn sheep are known to be sensitive to the presence of humans and have been described as the big game species most susceptible to the detrimental effects of human disturbance. Studies have shown bighorns to be very sensitive to human use of their habitat. . . . Similarly, a large body of literature suggests that most bears under utilize

habitats in proximity to roads and motorized trails. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

VI-37. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider a policy to ensure no additional access for motorized recreation.

The Forest Service should adopt a policy of no increase in net miles of motorized routes. The agency chronically has fiscal problems monitoring, maintaining, and enforcing the existing routes. It is fiscally irresponsible to build new routes until the agency can maintain its current inventory. In addition, since the FS does not have a good sense of the impacts of recreation occurring on existing routes to natural resources, it should not be creating more routes until it does. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

With 7,129 miles of road and trails that are open either yearlong, or seasonally to motors, the opportunities are extensive. Motorized users have plenty of opportunities to recreate on the Forest without degrading the last remaining undesignated wildlands on the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forests-areas that are critical security and connectivity areas for wildlife and provide solitude and quiet for non-motorized recreationists seeking a remote and wild experience away from the noise, smell and disruption of motors (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

VI-38. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider allowing motorized recreation opportunities only on roads or in restricted areas.

Keep motorized vehicles where they belong - on roads, or at least in restricted areas specified for their use. Off-road vehicles should only be allowed in areas where it can be demonstrated that they do no harm to the watershed, animal or plant life. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 50)

International Mountain Bicycling Association believes that all terrain vehicles should not be allowed in roadless areas, because the transportation system in such areas should be limited to singletrack trails. ATVs widen single track into roads. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

"Trying to strike a balance" of motorized use should not mean providing the majority of the national forest open to motorized use. In fact, the cost of doing so would degrade the natural resource values for everybody. Just because motorized vehicles are able to travel off-road, does not mean they should be allowed to on Forest Service lands.
(Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VI-39. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not consider long-distance trail loops.

Because long distance off-road vehicle loops often have disproportionate environmental impacts, we urge the FS not to create new long distance off-road riding opportunities. Such opportunities will "put the area on the map" as an established off-road vehicle area and will result in increasing visitation and the FS does not have the funds to manage this type of recreation system adequately. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

VI-40. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider focusing motorized recreation opportunities in more developed areas.

(The) Forest Service should begin its access management efforts by focusing motorized recreation on the more developed landscapes of the two national forests, which are largely on

the western boundaries, and close the large, undeveloped portions of the forests, largely on the eastern side of the area, to motorized recreation. This simple "first step" would make great strides towards reducing user conflicts and protecting the wildlife and fish habitat on the eastern parts of these two forests. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

VI-41. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider that reducing areas open to motorized recreationists could cause an increase in such use on lands privately owned or managed by other agencies.

Last, we are concerned that your intent to reduce land areas open to motorized recreational use may result in an unacceptable increase in use of other ownership lands. We ask you to carefully develop your motorized recreational strategy after meeting with other major landowners and motorized recreation interest groups. (Business, LEWISTON, ID - 103)

VI-42. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the effects of motorized recreation closures on safety.

It looks like more areas will be closed for all-terrain vehicle usage on the North Fork. The more that is closed and it forces users to funnel on those roads that are open will create more of public safety issues. In the past when we had a lot of motorcycles and ATV's in the 247-250 road area we had more accidents. By keeping roads and trails open like Clark Mountain, this will help keep kids off the major roads and reduce injuries. I know that there is a proposal in the Cedars Area to put in an ATV trail. When this is done it will also help. (County Elected Official, OROFINO, ID - 2096)

VI-43. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider replacing closed routes.

There are no doubt situations where the landscape would be better off if an existing route were reclaimed and replaced with a new one because of soil erosion, wildlife impacts, etc., or because the new route provides improved recreational opportunities. However, it is not in the Forest Service's interest to approve additional routes when it cannot afford to maintain the existing system and it does not understand the ecological consequences of high route densities. Hence, restoring an equal amount of miles of an undesirable route with a desirable one makes sense. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

Issue: Resource Impacts
Goal: Develop, maintain and reroute trail systems for OHV use that meet reasonable criteria for acceptable resource mitigation that is based on credible site specific science and not emotion.
Objectives:
Routes should be located to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air, or other resources. Routes should be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

VI-44. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider managing motorized recreation to preserve ecological integrity.

Motorized recreation should not result in significant or permanent negative alterations to stream flows, riparian conditions, air quality, soil condition, species diversity or richness, or ecosystem structure/function. Particularly, motorized recreation should not be allowed to exacerbate erosion or erosion potential. Motorized recreation and travel should be steered away from ecologically sensitive or ecologically important areas altogether, and inappropriate

travel routes closed to the public and rehabilitate where possible. In addition, for recreation routes that are designated as appropriate, mitigation measures should be implemented to ensure that ecological damage is minimized, e.g., proper trail placement and construction to minimize erosion . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

Recreation and travel should be planned so that motorized and mechanized users are not tempted to travel off-trail and possibly cause ecological impacts. For instance, motorized and mechanized trails should not be constructed to climb to timberline and dead-end, as users will be tempted to travel cross-country, especially if they can connect to another trail or road. Hence, the forest should carefully examine the routes that are designated for motorized and mechanized uses and minimize these "tempting" situations. Old timber or mining roads that could provide these kinds of tempting situations should be prioritized for complete obliteration, rather than simple gating or tank traps. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

We strongly support mitigation before motorized closure. Because of the cumulative negative effects of this management situation, we request that this project include adequate mitigation to compensate for the excessive amount of motorized closures that have occurred. (Motorized Recreation, HELENA, MT - 15)

VI-45. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider a policy to examine the potential impacts and effects of any new recreational machine that becomes available before its use on national forest lands.

Just because someone invents a new recreational machine does not mean that it belongs on or is appropriate for public lands. We recommend that the Forest Service include in the revision process for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests a statement to the effect that no new uses will be allowed on Forest Service lands until the Forest Service has had an opportunity to study its effects and plan for it; moreover, if the new type of recreation is determined to cause damage or conflicts considerably with other uses, the Forest Service can choose to disallow its use on Forest Service lands altogether . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

VI-46. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider increasing the number of areas for motorized recreation opportunities.

The Clearwater has not substantively recognized the public's needs and wishes and has consistently confined the legitimate user groups (motorized single-track, two-track ATV, over-snow motorized and two-track full-size) to smaller areas which guarantees higher impacts, diminished experience, less satisfaction with the recreation opportunity, a sense that their needs are not being fairly addressed, resentment toward the administrators, and enforcement issues due to inadequate opportunities provided. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 27)

Forest planners need to realize that there are many motorized recreationists who enjoy semi-primitive motorized settings. (State Government Agency, BOISE, ID - 3868)

Past policies of shutting roads, trails or areas without offering alternatives is not acceptable anymore. The non-motorized recreationist has it all- use of all areas. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 3769)

We are very concerned that the proposed action will be used to close motorized recreational opportunities that are very important to us and we ask for your consideration of our concerns. Motorized recreationists have reached the point where acceptance of any more wholesale

motorized closures is not an acceptable alternative. (Motorized Recreation, HELENA, MT - 15)

The project maps demonstrate a significant number of roads and trails closed to motorized recreationists and the lack of a functional network of OHV trails. At the same time the project maps also demonstrate that a functional network of trails exists for non-motorized recreationists in every area and that large areas of multiple-use land are effectively being managed as defacto wilderness areas. At least 95% of the visitors to the area are multiple-use recreationists and we ask that you develop a network of motorized roads and trails that adequately meet their needs. (Motorized Recreation, HELENA, MT - 15)

VI-47. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider increasing the number of areas for motorized recreation opportunities in order to benefit local economies.

One of our most intense desires is to see more miles of roads and trails authorized for motorized recreation not less. As the USFS is well aware, the number of citizens using OHVs of some type for access to public lands has grown and continues to grow. Restriction of this form of access will have a substantial negative impact on the economy of the Idaho communities proximate to the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests. At a time when the State's economy has already been severely impacted by restrictions on other uses of the forests another attributed to this instant project would be inexcusable. (Motorized Recreation, WHITE BIRD, ID - 32)

VI-48. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop alternatives that allow for proactive off-highway vehicle management.

Implementation level planning should develop management alternatives that allow for proactive OHV management. All alternatives should include specific provisions to mark, map and maintain existing OHV opportunities. All alternatives should include instructions to engage in cooperative management with OHV groups and individuals. Alternatives should include areas where OHV trails can be constructed and maintained when demand increases. The existing network of roads and trails in the planning area should be considered an inventory with which to develop recreational trail systems. Each road and trail should be inventoried and evaluated on the ground to determine its recreational value and any significant problem areas that require mitigation measures. Each road and trail should be evaluated for its value as a motorized loop or connected route. Each spur road and trail should be evaluated for its value as a source of dispersed campsite, exploration opportunities, and scenic overlook destination or as access for other reason. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

VI-49. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the size and type of motorized vehicle when defining access to roads and trails.

Broad strategic goals should facilitate using existing routes, both system and non system roads and trails, as open for full-sized vehicles. The FS should avoid a forest plan prescription that excludes full-sized vehicles on Forest Service system trails. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

I want to see separate distinctions for 2- and 4-wheeled off-highway vehicles. Single-track motorcycles do not cause near the damage that 4-wheeled vehicles do. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID - 544)

VI-50. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider identifying routes that can be used for organized events.

Blue Ribbon Coalition suggests the following goals and objectives be incorporated into each alternative in order to improve management of motorized and non-motorized recreation. Identify as many routes as possible that may be used for jamborees and other organized events. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

VI-51. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure motorized access for management purposes.

. . . . Motorized access should be provided for access facilities or infrastructure for culinary and agriculture water diversions, noxious weed or invasive species management, timber production, wildfire management etc. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

VI-52. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider establishing a policy to accept volunteer help to keep roads and trails open for motorized access.

I am a member of Public Land Access Year-round which is an organization that works with federal, state and private land owners to keep roads and trails open for motorized use. I know that the PLAY group and other user groups such as ATV clubs, motorcycle clubs, 4X4 clubs and other groups would help in the trail and road maintenance on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest, just to keep the roads and trails open to motorized access. As they have done in the past. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 2099)

The Forest Service is encouraged to integrate a Trail Patrol Program such as the Good Will Rider Program or the Utah Trail Patrol into the Forest Plan. BRC recommends contacting the Safe Rider Institute for more information on these valuable programs. 307-725-7433 www.saferider.org. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 10861)

VI-53. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the many different recreation uses on roads and "motorized" trails.

We (Capitol Trail Vehicle Associaion) are also representative of the needs of other public land visitors who may recreate and not be organized with a collective voice to comment on their needs during the public input process. These independent multiple-use recreationists include visitors who use motorized routes for weekend drives, mountain biking, sightseeing, exploring, picnicking, hiking, rock climbing, skiing, camping, hunting, RVs, shooting targets, fishing, viewing wildlife, snowmobiling, and collecting firewood, natural foods, rocks, etc. Mountain bikers seem to prefer OHV trails because we clear and maintain them and they have a desirable surface for biking. Multiple-use visitors also include physically challenged visitors who must use wheeled vehicles to visit public lands. All of these multiple-use visitors use roads and motorized trails for their recreational purposes and the decision must take into account motorized designations serve many recreation activities, not just recreational trail riding. (Motorized Recreation, HELENA, MT - 15)

VI-54. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider whether or not to manage off-highway vehicle and snowmobile access together or separately.

Treat snowmobiles and OHVs together. While some forests separate OHV management from snowmobile management, we feel the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forests should consider

access for both snowmobiles and OHVs at the same time. This strategy will ensure consistence among user groups and will better protect roadless and wilderness values. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

You should split up motorized recreation. Snowmobiles are completely different than four-wheelers. (Individual, TROUT CREEK, MT - 5382)

Cross-country travel might be appropriate for snowmobile use while wheeled vehicle travel should be limited to designated routes or areas. Winter wildlife range, on the other hand, might be appropriately off limits for snowmobile use and available for summer use. The differences between motorized recreation in the winter and summer must be clearly recognized. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4388)

All-Terrain and Off-Highway Vehicles

VI-55. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider balancing protection of resources with motorized recreation use.

Given the recent increases in the popularity of recreation and the technological advances in mechanized and off-highway vehicles (OHVs) it is critical that the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests address these issues to better balance the conservation of the public's resources with motorized recreation. This strategy includes separating uses where necessary, designating and signing routes, obliterating unauthorized routes, closing ecologically damaging routes, ensuring the viability of species, and providing significant and high-quality quiet-use areas. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

I'm particularly concerned with off-road vehicles in any area. In both summer and winter, I've encountered such use, and I've found it completely incompatible with hiking and camping. In addition, from my reading and direct observations, I know that such use, over time, destroys the natural character and health of these areas through eroding the soil, directly damaging plant life, fragmenting and isolating wildlife populations, and hastening the spread if invasive weed species. These problems already exist in the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests, and allowing motorized vehicles of any sort off existing roads only expands and worsens their effects. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 5437)

The Environmental Protection Agency is concerned about increasing use of OHVs and all terrain vehicles (ATVs) that occurs away from roads and trails, including steep slopes, wet meadows, around water bodies, and sometimes directly in stream beds. Executive Order 11644, "Use of Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands," requires agencies to ensure that the use of off-road vehicles on public lands will be controlled and directed so as to protect the resources of those lands, to promote the safety of all users of those lands, and to minimize conflicts among the various uses of those lands. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA - 7081)

. . . areas such as research natural areas, sensitive wildlife habitat, and riparian areas should also be off limit to all OHVs. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

The Clearwater should have a clear and consistent standard that ensures all OHV use, except some snowmobiling in appropriate roaded areas, be kept on system roads. The forest should also ensure winter use is consistent with wintering wildlife values, and ensure that use in higher basins of roaded country is not harmful to species such as wolverines. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 3893)

VI-56. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider motorized recreation in light of its benefits to local communities and economies.

Blue Ribbon Coalition suggests the following goals and objectives be incorporated into each alternative in order to improve management of motorized and non-motorized recreation. "Manage OHV use on the forest that maximizes economic opportunity for adjacent gateway communities while minimizing the impact to overall forest health, vegetation, wildlife and other forest users." (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

"Improved management of motorized and non-motorized recreation" leaves the door open to more restrictions and less recreation by Idaho County residents. The board of commissioners supports outdoor recreation enthusiasts and their families. That also includes the use of our forests by off-road vehicles. We support the off-road vehicle users in their efforts to keep all of the roads and trails now in use in the future. (County Elected Official, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 2081)

VI-57. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider collecting census information on off-highway vehicle use.

The Forest Service is encouraged to establish OHV census collection points at road and trail collection points. Include an OHV category on all trail and road census sheets. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 10861)

VI-58. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider where to allow off-road vehicles.

Allow ORVs on signed, designated routes only. Do not allow continued use on user-created routes. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 4385)

To avoid repeating the failure of the last forest plan to anticipate advances in off road vehicle technology, we suggest adopting a premise during the planning process that ORVs are capable of traveling anywhere within the forest. That is, assume there are no physical limitations to where motorized vehicle are able to travel. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID - 3853)

Please move aggressively to manage off-road vehicle (ORV) use on these two forests. Please limit ORV use to signed, designated routes only, prohibit ORV use on all user-created routes and eliminate all cross-country ORV travel. (Individual, BENSENVILLE, IL - 2232)

VI-59. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider allowing motorized uses in inventoried roadless and recommended wilderness areas.

PLAY is opposed to language that will prohibit all motorized uses in inventored roadless areas or recommended wilderness areas. The exception would be to restrict users to existing motorized routes, which should be inventoried and designated, including current motorcycle access routes. Such language thwarts the intent of Congress in refusing to designate these areas and would make them de-facto wilderness without the consent of the elected Congress. The restriction to current users would not affect future possible designations as the land is preserved as-is. Alternatively, we would propose a special backcountry designation for these areas. Management actions and current recreational uses would continue while the land would be maintained in a primitive condition. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID - 4389)

VI-60. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider provisions to monitor noise levels.

Off-Highway-Vehicles - Conflicts in this area are already occurring and need to be addressed much better in the future than is currently happening. We don't want to put black hats on OHV users but find places where they can recreate on their machines while minimizing conflicts and resource damage. Noise is often the trigger for conflicts, acceptable noise levels needs to be addressed in the forest plans. You need to determine what would be acceptable decibel levels, and insure OHVs meet the standard while on FS lands. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 5434)

VI-61. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the effects of trail construction, classification or configuration.

There are already a sufficient maze of classified roads and trails to convert to OHV trails. New trail construction or classification of user-created roads and trails may neither be necessary nor prudent. Construction of new OHV trails will entail removing vegetation, disturbing soil, disrupting wildlife habitat, and spreading noxious weeds. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

Loop trails may be desirable from the perspective of OHV users, but this design heavily impacts wildlife and other users. Loops isolate habitat, increase negative edge effects and increase motorized use. The Forest Service should analyze loop trails for fragmentation, loss of habitat, increased edge effects and impacts to sensitive wildlife. Loop trails should not be employed as part of the travel system in sensitive areas such as breeding, calving or migration areas. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

RESTRICT ALL-TERRAIN AND OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

VI-62. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider restricting off-road vehicle use.

Allow off-road vehicles on some signed, designated routes only, and to prevent any cross-country travel or travel routes by off-road vehicles. As off-road-vehicle use becomes more widespread, the forest will need to come up with and enforce on-the-ground standards that prevent harm to watersheds, important winter, calving and roosting habitat for wildlife, exotic weed infestations or cause conflicts with other forest recreationists. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 45)

Keep the trail system motor-free. . . . Roads are for motor users; trails are for quiet users. (Individual, STEVENSVILLE, MT - 2087)

Wildlands CPR encourages the Forest Service to take the following action regarding off-road vehicles on these two national forests:
1) Prohibit cross-country travel;
2) Restrict off-road vehicle use to designated routes only;
3) Do not allow continued use on user-created routes;
4) Designate every route through a public process that includes full NEPA analysis. Allow off-road vehicles only where a scientific assessment demonstrates that they cause no harm to watersheds by increasing erosion, disrupting wildlife habitat, contribute to exotic weed infestations of native plant communities or cause conflicts with other forest recreationists;
5) Create a "closed unless signed open" signing convention;
6) Permit ORV use only when funding allows for adequate monitoring and enforcement;
7) Limit "multiple-use" trails;

8) Prohibit motorized use in all wilderness areas, proposed wilderness areas, wilderness-quality areas, ecologically sensitive areas and roadless areas; (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 5372)

. . . off road vehicle(s) may have a detrimental effect . . . . The carbon monoxide as well as the considerable volume of noise they produce is not beneficial to the forests . . . . (Individual, GRESHAM, OR - 5381)

VI-63. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider restricting off-road vehicle use for the sake of future generations.

It is vital that Clearwater and Nez Perce be kept roadless and pristine. This means keeping out off-road vehicles as well. This is not just for us. It is for our children and grandchildren. Absolutely honor your stewardship responsibilities. Thank you very much. (Individual, SOUTHOLD, NY - 108)

VI-64. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider restricting off-road vehicle use for the sake of big-game hunting.

As a dedicated elk hunter, I have watched with growing concern the increasing prevalence of all-terrain vehicles in the back-country. While these vehicles can be useful in traversing roads that are in too poor condition for conventional vehicles, in the real back country they are terribly disruptive and damaging. Their noise greatly increases the human footprint and disrupts the behavior of animals. They erode and widen trails. I suggest that you restrict off-road vehicle use to designated routes with appropriate signage and that ORVs be prohibited from foot and pack trails, as well as from random cross-country travel. While this will constrain some folks who have come to depend on these vehicles, it will greatly improve the quality of outdoors experience for those of us who walk or ride horses when we use the back country. It would also produce economic advantages for outfitters, many of whom are based in economically-stressed areas and industries. (Individual, ALBUQUERQUE, NM - 1140)

VI-65. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the damage done by off-highway vehicles.

We are especially happy to see noxious weed management appear on this central list. The spread of weeds on the two forests threatens to undo much of the good work of recent forest management, and to transform our lands into nightmarish places. Similarly, access management deserves its place on this list. The pace of abuse by unwise mechanized use of the forests is growing, the damage gets worse each year, and a blind man can sense the harm being done in the guise of “recreation.” (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 25)

VI-66. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider consequences for non-compliance.

. . . confiscate vehicles used to break the rules. Because USFS may have insufficient personnel to provide adequate monitoring, it may be necessary to rely on citizen monitoring. If citizen monitoring documents that a vehicle was seen breaking the rules, confiscate it. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 4893)

VI-67. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider a system for off-highway vehicle use in some areas.

In high use areas or fragile areas, a cap on the number of OHV tails should by set according to resource limitations. The analysis should acknowledge that the Forest Service cannot and

does not have to accommodate an ever-increasing demand for motorized use. Similar problems have been solved with the river permitting system and should be considered. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

VI-68. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider access for motorized recreationists.

Your views are lopsided from a preservationist side of most issues. I realize the existing laws and regulations must be followed however our local Forest Service has control over how they are implemented. The access management changes are totally flawed. The Forest Service seems to think that they are protecting the forest by locking the motorized public out but we are the forest users that would do anything to protect the forest and still be allowed to access it. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 37)

The proposal will punish the only user group who would be glad to roll up their sleeves and help the Forest Service take care of our forests. We do not need less motorized access. Why not less horse traffic to prevent trail rutting and smelling campsites? Why not less backpackers who litter up our trails? Why not less fly fisherman wading through the spawning beds in Kelly Creek and Cayuse Creek? (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 123)

Some of the areas that are closed now for ATV use could be reopened. Those that were closed several years ago for erosion have healed up and could be reopened for some usage. (County Government, OROFINO, ID - 2096)

There is an increasing demand for OHV recreation opportunities on public lands and national forests. This growing OHV popularity is evidenced by the fact that recreational enthusiasts are buying OHVs at the rate of 1,500 units per day nationwide, with nearly one third of them doing so as first-time buyers. I would like to see the FS provide for increased OHV recreation opportunities to meet current and anticipated demand. (Individual, ELK CITY, ID - 1145)

OHV Recreation Objectives:
Routes should be designated that provide a variety of difficulty.
Routes should be designated that provide a variety of experiences.
Routes should be designated that provide opportunity for a variety of vehicle types.
Routes should be designated that provide access to destinations.
(Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

We have enough non-motorized areas for people who don't like to see or hear motorcycles. In fact, there are more miles of single-track trails closed to motorized use on the Clearwater National Forest and Nez Perce National Forest than there are open trails. I would like to see all the trails which are currently open to motorized access remain open . . . . (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4394)

VI-69. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not restrict access for snomobilers.

Allow snowmobiles in all areas as they leave no tracks. (Individual, MERCER ISLAND, WA - 5319)

VI-70. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the individual needs of recreationists.

As I get older the four-wheeler is the only way I can get to some of the areas. I have raised my children to respect the forest and the animals, my grandchildren are also being taught the

same. We all live, work and play here and so please don't take that away. (Individual, PIERCE, ID - 3902)

I desire that we senior citizens not be relegated to second class status because of limited mobility. The career hiker and horse rider should not have exclusive access to the great reaches of the public forests. I have never owned an ATV, but in the next year or so hope to acquire one and then be able to access some of the increasingly restricted areas of our state. Please use common sense in recommending restrictions which make it possible for only the elitists and well connected to be able to enjoy the great outdoors of Idaho. (Individual, MERIDIAN, ID - 53)

I feel it is important of have an OHV program to allow the middle class workers to have way to relax and release stress and anxiety. Riding and playing is relaxing. This is a great state for such recreation. (Individual, BOISE, ID - 131)

VI-71. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider equal access for motorized and non-motorized recreationists.

Develop areas for motorized use that are similar to the areas set aside for non-motorized use. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 2082)

VI-72. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider allowing motorized recreation in recommended wilderness areas.

Please move aggressively to manage off-road vehicle (ORV) use on these two forests. Specifically, I urge you to not close recommended wilderness areas to them to maintain the wilderness characteristics and nature. Please do not limit ORV use to signed, designated routes only. (Individual, MERCER ISLAND, WA - 5319)

VI-73. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the impacts of concentrated motorized recreational activities.

In this revision process I would like to see consideration for motorized use of trails throughout the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. Far too many trails of historic value are being dropped from the forests trails systems. If more trails are left open the use will be much more wide spread and (there will be) less impact on individual trails. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 4882)

VI-74. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider conflicts among recreationists.

I do not believe the Forest Service statement of increased user conflicts. I, nor anyone I know, has ever had a conflict in 26 years of trail use. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 123)

We must not divvy up these public treasures to certain intolerant sectors of the public and deny access to the others who they irrationally identify as the source of their perceived conflict. The forest must not reward the demands of intolerant users but should direct them to the ample opportunities that already exist for their desired recreation. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4388)

The way to level this playing field is obvious; both sides must have something to lose. If non motorized recreation makes its case for conflict and incompatibility, they should stand an equal chance of losing their access. Managers should give serious consideration to saying, “this is a traditional and important snowmobiling area and you have made a compelling case

that there is conflict between you and the snowmobilers." You say "motorized and non-motorized users can't share. The area is, therefore, closed to non-motorized winter recreation." It wouldn't take many decisions like this to bring a real spirit of cooperation and compromise to the table. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4388)

Open or Closed Roads or Areas

VI-75. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider establishing designated routes.

The analysis needs to include a strict timeline for establishing designated engineered routes. The transition from "existing" to "designated" routes needs to occur as soon as possible. The Forest Service should prioritize sensitive areas first and then proceed through the remaining areas. Adopting a transitional period in which OHVs are restricted first to existing routes before designing routes is all advised, because route proliferation will continue or accelerate during this period.

The forest plan should prohibit cross-country travel by all motorized users, restricting them to designated routes. We recognize the need to designate appropriate areas for motorized use and to manage them for the benefit of motorized users. However the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forests should make it clear in their travel management framework that motorized and mechanized travel is permitted only on routes marked as open. This (designating routes) includes the development of easy-to-read maps that clearly mark trails open or closed to motorized use, and places the responsibility on the user to know which areas are available to them and their machines. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

VI-76. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider closing user-created routes.

Close user-created routes. One thing the Clearwater and Nez Perce revision process cannot do is legitimized and "adopt" ATV user-created routes into the recognized trail system. Because these routes were created by users, no effort was made to comply with Forest Service regulations governing travel management before they were "constructed." Thus, no effort was made to ensure that the trails were located to:

"Minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, or other resources," 36 C.F.R.295.2(b)(1)

"Minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitat," (36 C.R.R. 295.2(b)(2))

"Minimize conflicts between off road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands"(36.C.F.R. 295.2(b)(3)

In creating these routes there was also no evaluation of any environment impact as required by NEPA.

Find the resources to close user-created routes at this time and then undertake the effort to evaluate which user-created routes may re-open at later date after an evaluation consistent with the NFMA regulations and the executive orders addressing motorized use on public lands. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

The Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests must educate users that Forest Service regulations prohibit "constructing, placing or maintaining any kind of road, trail without a special-use authorization, contact, or approved operating plan" (36 CFR B 261.10.). If users want to open a new route, they can petition the Forest Service through an established process. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

VI-77. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider whether or not to close some roads.

Idaho County has made RS 2477 claims on numerous roads within the boundaries of the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests. The validity of the county's claims has yet to be decided, and early settlement of the claims is not foreseeable. This limits the ability of the Forest Service to close any such roads to vehicle use. (County Government, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 2081)

Road and trail closures: Road and trail closures must be documented with a clear, concise reason as to why the trail was closed. In addition, once the conditions which lead to the road or trails closures have been mitigated or resolved then the close route must be reopened. (Individual, JULIAETTA, ID - 4886)

Roads already in should not be closed as taxpayers have already paid for the roads. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID - 3790)

VI-78. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider a policy to open all system roads and trails to bicycling.

International Mountain Bicycling Association believes the following policies should generally apply on national forest lands. The travel plan should be based upon an initial assumption that all system trails and roads are open to bicycling, as they are to other non-motorized travel forms. This means the Forest Service should not limit bicycles to designated routes only, because that is a "closed-unless-opened" policy. (In this contest, the term "designated" means use-specified, not system or official trail). (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

VI-79. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider whether or not to designate all land closed unless posted open.

IMPLEMENT A "CLOSED UNLESS POSTED OPEN" POLICY

We request that the Clearwater follow the national trend for OHV regulations which designates that all land will be closed unless posted open. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 3841)

A "closed unless marked open" policy facilitates enforcement and reduces confusion on the part of the user as to where they may and may not travel. It also eliminates the incentive for irresponsible users to vandalize closure signs. A key component of a successful "closed unless marked open" policy is wide availability of easy-to-read maps. We advocate for maps that are available electronically, and can be accessed and used by other agencies, such as Idaho Fish and Game, who act as partners in the management of public land. Maps should also be distributed to OHV and snowmobile dealerships and clubs as well as local Chambers of Commerce. The more readily cooperating agencies can access and distribute the information, the more likely the public is to receive the information. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

DO NOT IMPLEMENT A "CLOSED UNLESS POSTED OPEN" POLICY

The "close unless posted open" policy simply opens the door to a plethora of arbitrary closure decisions by the FS, BLM, and NPS over the years to come. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 3849)

Closed unless posted open strategies also carry a huge burden. The open notices must be currently posted and maintained. If you fail to do this and people encounter a road or trail

they know should be open, they will be confused and angry. Many will use it and other unposted routes anyway. Regulation of activities should be the action of last resort. . . . In crafting the new access portion of the forest plans please prioritize the current and potential future limits on access. Decide which are truly critical to meeting your management mission and handle those well. . . . Other strategies, such as education, information and voluntary actions can be as effective in some instances and carry a far smaller managerial burden. . . . Is there another way to do it? Do we absolutely need it? Can we afford it? (These) are important questions you need to ask before imposing any regulatory action with these plan modifications. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4388)

VI-80. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider seasonal closures.

Any road and trail closures should be based on seasonal opportunities. Instead of prohibiting motorized travel completely, allow utilization of roads and trails when weather and other considerations would allow. If travel causes watershed problems during certain times of the year, allow access in other time frames. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4461)

The analysis should consider seasonal closures to protect fish and wildlife. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

VI-81. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider equal treatment of various recreational users when determining closures.

It would be an error to single out bicycling – or, for that matter, any other non-motorized trail users – as especially harmful compared to other users. So if wolves or calving elk need privacy, then all recreation, not just one type, should be prohibited or seasonally restricted. Land managers should be careful in discriminating between non-motorized uses when considering the ecological impacts of trails. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

VI-82. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider prohibiting year-round motorized use in proposed wilderness areas.

Thank you for proposing to prohibit year-round motorized use in proposed wilderness areas. We believe the Clearwater National Forest can not ensure that the wilderness characteristics or proposed wilderness areas are retained if winter motorized uses are allowed to occur in part of these areas. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 3841)

Non-Motorized Recreation

VI-83. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the needs of bicyclists.

While double-track and gravel roads may offer excellent experiences for a wide variety of cyclists, roads do not provide the type of recreation experience that most intermediate and advanced riders seek. Adding more roads does not adequately improve mountain bicycling opportunities. When planning bicycling systems, roads should be considered primarily as links to non-motorized, single-track trails. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

VI-84. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the needs of recreationists who pursue activities other than motorized.

. . . . The Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests should use this opportunity to address the large and growing problem of the domination of one type of use, motorized use, to the detriment of other recreationists such as hunters, skiers, birdwatchers, hikers, botanists, and horseback riders, and the resource at hand. Provide large blocks of non-motorized use areas at low and high elevations. A key component to providing high-quality non-motorized experiences is to provide quiet recreational opportunities at a mix of elevations and on all ranger districts. Clearly, the larger the block of quiet area, the better the recreation experience of non-motorized users. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

The number of roadless and backcountry areas is static or decreasing. But populations in the Rocky Mountain West are growing at record levels and the use of the backcountry is increasing at a correspondingly rapid rate. To relieve pressure on these often sensitive areas and habitats, and to maximize opportunity and enjoyment for human visitors, I believe that you, as managers should favor the least consumptive and damaging uses, in other words, the hikers. (Individual, DIXON, MT - 2426)

We also urge the Forests to provide non-motorized opportunities close to communities so that users looking for a day or part-day experience do not have to drive and then hike deep into the backcountry. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID- 1170)

VI-85. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should include a provision in forest plan revisions to keep use of trails free of fees.

We should be encouraging people to use their feet not discouraging them by charging trail fees just to collect money that would probably be spent on overhead or more planning. You may be impressed with your fancy campgrounds, running water, tables, fire rings, law enforcement, paved roads, toilets and many, many signs. The public is not. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4379)

Developed Recreation and Recreation Facilities

VI-86. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider what people really want for their camping experience.

Go to southern California or Arizona and see how the BLM does business. What people use when they have the choice of all levels of camping is no roads, no fire ring, no toilets, no table, law enforcement by CB radio or cell phone, potable water, trailer dump and dumpster maybe a mile away or more. . . . free for 14 days. . . . You have failed the public or at least built an unwanted facility. Or though price or regulation discourage people from using it. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4379)

VI-87. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the installation of more toilets along beaches.

This plan shows that the North Fork River area is wild and scenic. I know that there are more bathroom restrictions in a wild and scenic area for camping. The trouble is day usage at the beaches. More restrooms need to be constructed in these areas. With lack of timber monies why not contact users groups to help maintain and construct more facilities? (County Elected Official, OROFINO, ID - 2096)

VI-88. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the special needs of some recreationists.

Consideration needs to be given to people who have handicaps that already limit their ability to enjoy the forests. By giving more motorized access to camping and picnic areas, their opportunities are increased. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4461)

VI-89. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the needs of tent campers when rehabilitating campgrounds.

Decision makers need to carefully consider the needs of the camping public when redeveloping campgrounds. We have seen some campgrounds redeveloped in such a manner that it discourages tent camping. Developed campgrounds need to provide both RV and tent camping. (State Government, BOISE, ID - 3868)

Dispersed Recreation

VI-90. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider where to provide bicycling opportunities.

. . . International Mountain Bicycling Association maintains that bicycles are always appropriate within the semi-primitive, non-motorized Recreation Opportunity Spectrum areas, and usually appropriate in primitive areas outside of wilderness, because bicycles travel quietly and minimal impact and are human-powered. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

We recommend that mechanized use be prohibited from wilderness quality lands to avoid establishing an incompatible use in lands that may in the future be designated as wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

Mountain biking has occurred in recommended wilderness areas for over 20 years and it has been shown through many recent scientific studies that a mountain biker has not greater impact on the land and wildlife than a hiker. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

Winter Recreation

Skiing and Snow-shoeing

VI-91. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the areas available for non-motorized winter recreation opportunities.

How about more areas that are designated only for cross-country skiing/snowshoeing (i.e., not snowmobiles)? I, and many others, enjoy cross-country skiing at Lolo Pass but cannot truly appreciate the experience since there is the constant whine and the smell of snowmobile exhaust in the whole Lolo Pass area. You can't get away from it. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 5436)

Snowmobiling

VI-92. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider winter snowmobile use separate from motorbike or all-terrain vehicle use.

Winter snowmobile use should be separate from motorbike or ATV use. (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT - 3763)

VI-93. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the areas available for motorized winter recreation opportunities.

All of the areas on the forest now open for snowmobiling should remain open unless it is for elk winter range protection. Closure of any area outside of the designated wilderness to snowmobiling makes no sense. Snowmobiles leave no permanent tracks and their use is already well-established . . . . (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4394)

You must remember that non-motorized winter users already have access to massive areas where motorized winter recreation is prohibited, including the Selway-Bitterroot, Gospel-Hump, and Frank Church-River of No Return Wildernesses. Non motorized recreationists are also free to use all of the traditional snowmobiling areas and complain about how conflicted they feel. We don't question that skiers may perceive an enhanced experience in areas with no snowmobiles. Our experience would be enhanced without skiers to deal with but we don't use that to leverage them out of the forest. Their desire for exclusive areas doesn't justify exclusion of motorized recreation without opening some new suitable areas to mitigate our loss. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4388)

Snow machines should be managed like other motorized vehicles. Snow machine travel should be restricted to designated trails and "play areas." Off-trail use (high-marking) should be prohibited. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID - 3853)

We do not support winter motorized use in lynx habitat. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 3841)

We all know that the game of chasing a wild animal with a snowmobile is too hard to resist for many people. This should not be allowed to be a sport. (Individual, FRESNO, CA - 1143)

VI-94. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the areas available for motorized winter recreation opportunities based on safety and benefits to local economies.

There is a need to let the snow groomer go all the way to Powell from Pierce on the 500 road. There is not a winter animal range at that elevation. With the economy down in Pierce this would help. It would help search and rescue if it were groomed. This would allow snowmobiles to go on groomed trails from Wallace to Powell. (County Elected Official, OROFINO, ID - 2096)

VI-95. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the negative impacts of snowmobiles.

There are many known impacts of snowmobile use. According to the EPA, "the resource impact and management issues associated with snowmobiles are very similar to those of other off-highway vehicles" (EPA 2000, p.6). Snowmobiles compact the snow, altering characteristics including hardness, water content, temperature profile, subnivean airspace temperature, rate of spring melt-off, and the temperature and water content of the soil

(Reimers 1991). Jarvinen and Schmid (1971) determined through controlled experiments that compaction due to snowmobile use reduced rodent and shrew use of subivean habitats to near zero, and attributed this decline to direct mortality, not outmigration. Snow compaction by snowmobiles has also been implicated in the decline of soil fauna (Meyer 1993), vegetation damage (Neumann and Merriam 1972), and delayed spring growth (Foresman et al. 1976, Douglass et al. 1999). According to Douglass et al. (1999, p. 9.4), "one traverse over undisturbed snow can affect the physical environment beneath the snow and physically damage important plants."
Because the timing of snowmelt determines the distribution of plant communities in the subalpine zone (Evans and Fonda 1989), delays in spring growth caused by snowmobiles may be causing drastic changes to subalpine plant communities. It has been widely demonstrated that snowmobile use disturbs wintering ungulates and causes them to increase their movements (Dorrance et al. 1975, Richens and Lavigne 1978, Eckstein et al. 1979, Aune 1981, Freddy et al. 1986, Colescott and Gillingham 1998). Snowmobile traffic causes elk to change their activity patterns (Aune 1981) and displaces them from suitable habitat (Hardy 2001). Deep snow can increase the metabolic costs of winter movements in ungulates up to five times normal levels (Parker et al. 1984) at a time when ungulates are particularly stressed by forage scarcity and high metabolic demands. A review of the literature has found that all ungulates show physiological stress in response to winter recreation, resulting in higher energy expenditures (Canfield et al. 1999) (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

You should consider the effects of snowpack pollution in headwater areas by highly-polluting snowmobiles which leave trace elements of potentially damaging carcinogens and mutogens. (see snowpack studies by Colorado School of Mines on snowmobile trails) Trace elements - in parts per billion - of the same hydrocarbons have been found to cause birth defects in fish fry in streams near Prudhoe Bay.
High-marking snowmobiles should not be allowed to introduce any hydrocarbon pollution into the purest headwater areas in America. You should evaluate this before determining what areas are appropriate for snowmobiling. (Individual, HELENA, MT - 10754)

EPA notes that snowmobile use is increasing. Snowmobile (and ATV) 2-stroke engines mix the lubricating oil with the fuel and both are expelled as part of the exhaust, and allow up to one third of the fuel delivered to the engine to be passed through the engine and into the environment virtually un-burned. As stated in the U.S. Department of the Interior document, “Air Quality Concerns Related to Snowmobile Usage in National Park,” Feb. 2000, hydrocarbon emission rates from 2-stroke snowmobile engines are about 80 times greater than those found in 1995-96 automobile engines. A majority of these hydrocarbons are aromatic hydrocarbons, including polyaromatic hydrocarbons, which are considered to be the most toxic component of petroleum products, and aromatic hydrocarbons are also associated with chronic and carcinogenic effects. Increased air pollutant emissions could be problematic during short periods of poor air dispersion (e.g., river valleys where frequent inversion conditions may trap air pollutants).
There are numerous studies underway to further determine environmental effects of these pollutants. The National Park Service Final EIS for Winter Use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks contains a good summary of the science regarding impacts from snowmobile use. EPA recommends that the Forests monitor the results of these studies and factor the results into travel management and resource planning. We will also try to pass on information emerging out of these studies. The EPA encourages use of the newer less polluting 4-stroke engine snowmobiles (e.g., http://www1.newswire.ca/releases/April2001/11/c4056.html). (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA - 7081)

Some forests have policies that prohibit off-trail snowmobile use until at least six inches of snow have accumulated. Snow in alpine areas is highly susceptible to wind movement which can leave bare or thinly covered areas that would be difficult or impossible to avoid given the speed of snowmobiles. Fragile alpine vegetation may need protection against such use. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA - 7081)

VI-96. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider that snowmobiles cause no significant impacts.

Winter and summer motorized recreation is, of course, very different and these differences must be recognized in any travel planning effort. That is, of course, because it is so difficult to make a case for significant resource damage resulting from over-snow travel. Snow machines travel over a resilient and transient medium, make no contact with the ground, and cause little resource damage. Areas with fragile soils and ground vegetation may be utilized with snow machines, but necessarily closed to terrestrial vehicles. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4388)

We do doubt the need for any closures to over-snow vehicles for protection of water quality. We know of no studies indicating any significant impact by our use on water quality and suggest this statement be so qualified in the draft environmental impact statement. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4388)

We do not feel that our presence in the area is a threat to the wildlife; in fact most of our trails are used by game, it makes getting around in the deep snow a lot easier. (Motorized Recreation, OROFINO, ID - 3901)

Trailheads, Signs and Parking

VI-97. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider how to manage trailheads.

Where possible, District Rangers are encouraged to provide trailheads for popular trails. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

The plan should be proactive rather than reactive. By this I mean if you only want a few people to use a trail you only build trail head parking for a few vehicles rather than going to a permit program. Every time we have to put up a regulatory sign we have failed. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4379)

Accurate maps and information should be easily available to the public where entering the forest. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

VI-98. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider how to manage wilderness portals.

Initiate a mandatory self registration wilderness visitor permit system. All visitors will then be aware of "the rules of the trail" and any "special user regulations" before they leave the portal and arrive at the site in question. Develop criteria for wilderness portal improvements based on limits of Acceptable Change (LAC), and the carrying capacity (CC) of the area serviced by said portal , not on perceived demand, or desires of special interest groups (eg:, Why would you want to improve stock facilities at portals servicing high elevation lake sites when research and agency management studies both clearly indicate that restoration of these vulnerable sites is a more costly long term venture, than controlling impactive use in the first

place? (i.e. the recent proposal for additional new stock facilities at the Big Fog Portal. (Individual, PECK, ID - 4381)

VI-99. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider a policy for signing closed roads and trails.

Classified roads and trails, when closed, should be signed with an official, legitimate reason. Monitoring should be implemented to justify the reasons stated. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

Permitting for Recreation Activities

VI-100. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider how to manage off-highway vehicle races or other organized events on public land.

OHV races or organized outings are increasingly popular events on public lands. The analysis should require bonding for full restoration costs, require advanced notice of route selection, and recoup Forest Service staffing costs to map and monitor these events. The Forests should examine the likely effects of each event and analyze if it is an appropriate use because of potential resource concerns, wildlife impacts, and/or impacts to other users. The Forest Service should educate user groups and industry representatives on responsible riding ethics as part of any event allowed. Participants and supporters can then educate other users, dealers, and manufactures in their hometowns. The Forest Service should emphasize the fact that users need to ride responsibly if they want to continue to pursue this activity on public land. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

We further encourage the U.S. Forest Service to avoid establishing regulations to be imposed on the public which the USFS cannot manage in a timely manner. An example would be a requirement for access and/or event permits with timeframes in which the offices of the USFS cannot process applications thereby establishing an artificial barrier to public access to our forests. (Motorized Recreation, WHITE BIRD, ID - 32)

VI-101. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider language in special-use permits regarding pesticide use.

Language should be included in special-use and other permits (i.e., grazing, recreation residence, etc.) that require the permittee to present requests of all use of pesticides on federal lands to the USFS for review and approval. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA - 7081)

VI-102. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the Wilderness Act and permitting of outfitters and guides.

The provisions of the Wilderness Act are very strict with regard to permanent structures (which often are a part of outfitters and guides' activities) and allow outfitting and guiding only if necessary and proper for the purposes of the Act. The Forest Service needs to question whether the current standards for outfitting and guiding fall within the spirit of the Wilderness Act and needs to closely monitor those activities which are permitted. This is an instance where strict standards and guidelines are an absolute necessity. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 38)

User Education

VI-103. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider education to minimize resource damage and user conflicts.

Objectives:
Education should be the first line of action. Proper education programs and service programs must be an important focus of the forest plan as well as the travel plan. This emphasis should be a key part to avoiding and minimizing resource and social user conflicts by providing education to public lands visitors so they utilize the lands suitable for their mode of recreation. Educational programs could include use of mailings, handouts, improve travel management mapping, pamphlets, TV and radio spots, web pages, newspaper articles, signing, presentations, information kiosks with mapping, and trail rangers. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

Prepare a recreation web page that provides adequate detail on routes for all types of recreationists. The Forest Service needs to work with off-road vehicle user groups, dealers and manufacturers to develop, publicize and promote a code of ethical and responsible trail use. Travel maps should be made widely available at dealerships and trailheads. The Forest Service should also conduct outreach through schools, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, hunter education classes, nature centers, printed Fish and Game regulations and summer camps. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

VI-104. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider partners for public education efforts.

Goal: Educate recreationists on the potential resource impacts and user responsibilities of OHV use through partnerships with user groups, other agencies and the formal education system. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

We recommend working with organizations such as the Idaho Native Plants Society to develop public education programs for recreationists. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

Volunteers are an excellent resource to help in the education of the public, trail design, monitoring, and patrolling themselves to help protect the forest resources. The use of volunteer rider group, for this process would give the riders more of a feeling of "ownership and accomplishment". (Recreational, BOISE, ID - 135)

International Mountain Bicycling Association believes the following policies should generally apply on national forest lands. There are many management options short of separating or eliminating uses; such as education, peer patrolling, or alternating days, which can work to manage diverse uses compatibly. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

Chapter 7 – Lands and Special Designations

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Lands and Special Designations

Public Land Ownership and Boundaries

VII-1. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recognize that public lands are owned by all people.

Public lands are owned and enjoyed by all the people. No one corporation, individual or partnership has title to our public lands. (Individual, MOUNT DORA, FL - 1649)

VII-2. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should understand public lands are valued for their naturalness.

. . . I find solace in knowing, wherever I am and whatever I'm doing, that large areas of these forests are in a relatively natural and undisturbed state. In the 21st century, we as owners and guardians of these forests need to keep remaining undeveloped areas as natural as possible – for our peace of mind and for scientific study and comparison.

Idaho's last undeveloped public lands are used and enjoyed by Idahoans and represent an enduring legacy for all Americans. (Preservation/Conservation, POLLOCK, ID – 1142)

VII-3. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recognize that federal land ownership does not stunt economic growth.

Idaho as a state has 70.4 percent of its lands in state and federal ownership, ranking 4th in the nation as a percent. . . Clearwater County has 53.9 percent of its land in state or federal ownership and Idaho County has 83.3 percent. (Idaho Profiles 1995) Some people argue this high percentage of non-private land stunts economic growth. Other states and counties have higher percentages of non-private land and are not handicapped by this ownership pattern. For example both Nevada and Utah have a higher percentage but also have had relatively high economic growth rates in recent years. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VII-4. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not change any names.

Leave all names as they are and have been. That way we know what you are talking about. (Individual, KOOSKIA, ID - 3878)

Land Acquisition and Exchanges

VII-5. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should plan to acquire Plum Creek lands bordering the Clearwater National Forest.

Plum Creek checkerboard lands on the Clearwater NF are a major imposition in the management of public lands in the area. A plan to acquire these lands might be the single most important thing the Forest Service could do in the next 15 years. The revision should include a vehicle for addressing this issue. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 23)

Special Land Designations

General

VII-6. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should protect undeveloped areas.

I have watched as too many beautiful wild places have been transformed into developments. We need to set aside some of the remaining forest lands before it is too late. (Individual, FORT COLLINS, CO - 396)

FROM ROADS

All special areas need to be protected from roads. There is a large scientific body of evidence documenting the adverse impacts of roads including exotic weeds encouragement, degraded water quality, loss of wildlife habitat, increased illegal poaching to name a few. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION

Undeveloped areas should be protected from development and motorized abuse, and eventually become designated wilderness. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID - 39)

VII-7. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider management of lands as special interest areas.

Some special habitats (springs, seeps, ponds, wetlands), unique features and Research Natural Areas (RNAs) should be given more exposure especially to those interested in the educational values of the forest. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID - 137)

COASTAL DISJUNCT

The coastal disjunct habitat (CDH) on the C/N NF (Clearwater/Nez Perce National Forests) should be managed as a special interest area (SIA) and be taken out of the timber base. . . CDH provides for diversity for many plant species. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VII-8. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recognize the Northwest Passage National Scenic Byway.

The Northwest Passage Scenic Byway is located within the Lolo Pass, Upper Lochsa, Middle Lochsa, Lowell, and Middle Fork Clearwater Forest Plan Geographic Areas. In the Proposed Action none of these geographic areas identify the Byway as a unique feature or acknowledge the Byway's presence. (Place-Based Group, LEWISTON, ID - 3778)

VII-9. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should evaluate the economic impacts caused by recommending lands for special designations.

It is critical that the economic impacts be seriously evaluated when identifying areas to be designated as special/unavailable for resource management and use. The inventoried roadless area (IRA) needs to be re-evaluated and updated. Areas recommended for addition to the national wilderness preservation system needs to be considered carefully. The full fiscal impact of any new designations on local communities needs to be identified prior to congressional authorizations. (City Government, OROFINO, ID - 3281)

VII-10. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not recommend additional lands "for special designations."

There should be no additional special areas! We already have millions of acres of specially designated areas set aside such as wilderness study areas, research natural areas, botanical research areas, national scenic trails, areas of cultural significance, buffer zones, safety zones, corridors, botanically sensitive areas, game management areas, environmentally sensitive areas, protected habitat, linkage zones and corridors, administratively restricted sites and areas, closures by emergency order and by temporary order, Continental Divide National Scenic Trails, nesting areas, state and national parks, reference areas, walk in areas, wildlife preserves, bird refuges, game management areas, areas designated as critical habitat, closures to avoid imagined user conflicts, roads and trail temporary and permanent for wildlife protection, historic sites, national historic sites - and other agency closures and restrictions so numerous that we do not even have the data consolidated to a point that total impacts can be determined. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 27)

VII-11. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not recommend additional lands as roadless or wilderness.

In general, the Clearwater Elk Recovery Team (CERT) opposes any new additional roadless and wilderness areas in both forests. The lack of flexibility cited by the USFS with regard to many previous requests for management changes in both designations causes the concern and resulting opposition from the CERT. (Preservation/Conservation, SAGLE, ID - 4896)

Roadless Areas

Evaluation/Inventories

VII-12. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider more than a roadless area's potential for wilderness.

. . . you state that the inventoried roadless areas of both forests "need" to be evaluated for potential recommendation as designated wilderness. On what requirement is this "need" based? You go on to state that 922,000 acres of the roadless areas were allocated as "suitable" lands, open for road construction and timber harvest. Why does your analysis of these areas only include wilderness recommendations and not analysis for multiple-use entry, including road building and timber harvest? (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID - 3767)

VII-13. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should coordinate roadless area boundaries and management with adjacent forests.

There is a need to revise roadless maps and to coordinate with adjacent forests for consistency in management. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VII-14. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the role of roadless areas in connectivity when evaluating roadless areas.

. . . the Forest Service should take the following into account when addressing the role that roadless areas play in landscape connectivity: Large patches of habitat that contain large populations of species present a better opportunity to ensue the survival of species than do small patches with small populations. Habitat patches that are located closer together allow for more exchange among individuals than do habitat patches that are far apart. Contiguous

habitat promotes more movement of species and links among subpopulations than does fragmented habitat. Habitat patches that are interconnected provide more connections than do isolated habitat patches surrounded by developed landscapes. In attempts to sustain viable wildlife populations, habitat patches that are relatively inaccessible to humans are preferred over habitat patches that are accessible to humans (roaded areas).
(Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

VII-15. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should protect all inventoried roadless areas over 1000 acres in size.

All roadless areas, including inventoried areas greater than 1000 acres, should be fully protected from logging, road construction, and mining. Complete roadless area protection is essential to the protection and restoration of aquatic resources for many reasons. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR - 3869)

Virtually every credible and independent assessment of salmonid population and habitat condition has concluded that roadless areas are essential to persistence and rebuilding of native salmonid populations. Credible plans for protection and rebuilding of salmonid populations have repeatedly called for complete protection of all roadless areas greater than 1,000 acres. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR - 3869)

VII-16. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider creating roadless areas by removing roads and trails.

Roadless areas can be "re-created" by streamlining the travel system. Ecologically destructive roads and trails should be decommissioned and removed, as should redundant and useless ones. Roads that will remain should be as ecologically benign as possible and receive full, yearly maintenance. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 5372)

Management Direction

VII-17. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should protect roadless lands.

IRAs not recommended for wilderness designation should be managed to retain their roadless character (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID - 2083)

The Wilderness Society recommends that all remaining roadless areas on both the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests be managed to maintain their roadless character. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

The Great Burn and other inventoried roadless areas in the Clearwater National Forest are part of the largest complex of unprotected roadless lands in the lower forty-eight states. This is a critical distinction for the Forest Service to acknowledge. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 3841)

The Tribe has taken the policy position that roadless should remain roadless, free of logging, grazing, and road building. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID - 3867)

FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The whole wild land area, referred to as the Big Wild, is the largest wildland in the lower U.S. The uniqueness and size of these wild public lands provide many important assets to the public. The biological diversity is unmatched in the Northern Rockies and needs effective protection. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

FOR CONNECTED LANDSCAPES

The addition of roadless areas to a protected conservation system in Central Idaho creates a highly connected landscape. The roadless areas connect the Sawtooth, Gospel-Hump, Frank Church-River of No Return, and Selway-Bitterroot Wildernesses into a huge, connected landscape that would be important to the movement of local, wide ranging species and to ecosystem processes such wildfire that help maintain natural landscape dynamics. The roadless lands on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests are key components in the connection of the larger central Idaho landscape. Preserving that connectivity through roadless area protection should be a priority in the revision of the forest plans. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

Great Burn Study Group (GBSG) urges the Clearwater to leave all roadless areas roadless. These roadless lands provide important connections between the large complex of wildlands in central Idaho and wildlands in northwest Montana. Maintaining these connections is important to the long term viability and diversity of wildlife species. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 3841)

CONSISTENT WITH DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

The protection of all roadless areas from timber harvest (including salvage harvest) and road building will contribute to the maintenance and restoration of desired future conditions for all management areas (aquatic restoration, access management, noxious weeds, terrestrial ecosystem condition). (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1169)

CONTROVERSY ASSOCIATED WITH DEVELOPMENT

The Clearwater and Nez Perce revised forest plans would be wise to de-emphasize any expectation that roadless lands will be part of the timber base or will otherwise be developed. Politics, courts, budgets, public attention and resource values all make it problematic at best to develop roadless areas. Any effort to build roads in roadless areas will be controversial, expensive, below cost for virtually any potential timber sale, and put valuable aquatic and terrestrial resources at risk. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

The Clearwater should commit to maintaining the roadless character of all remaining roadless lands because of the values they hold which contribute to the overall ecological integrity of the Clearwater: healthy forests and streams which promote clean water, and important fish and wildlife habitat. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 3841)

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

As the U.S. population grows and thus the number of those seeking wilderness opportunities, wild and roadless recreation opportunities becomes much more sought after and more constrained resource. The long term economic benefit of these areas is much greater than any short term economic benefit from converting the forests. In addition, the maintenance costs of converted areas are much greater than wild areas. (Individual, VACAVILLE, CA - 6789)

FREEDOM FROM CROWDS

We need to protect as much roadless area as possible. If we keep dividing up the land with roads and development, eventually we will have no place to go to take a break from our crowded cities. And the pressure of growth not only affects us, it stresses wildlife which have no where else to go. (Individual, ALBUQUERQUE, NM - 693)

FRONTIER HERITAGE

Please maintain all of the roadless lands in the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. There is just not that much left of these sorts of places-places that embody our frontier heritage, places that are, as near as possible, what the first Europeans found in this country. They are our heritage and our cathedrals, and as much of it as possible should be preserved. (Individual, BERKELEY, CA - 5426)

FUTURE GENERATIONS

Conserve roadless areas for the sake of future generations of humans and wildlife, scientific research, clean water, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat, and places to escape from the rat-race of today's concrete jungle. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID - 3888)

GENETIC RESERVOIRS

They (roadless areas) contribute to the continued viability of numerous species, and may help avert the need to list some of them; including some found on private as well as public lands, as threatened or endangered. These characteristics also mean that roadless areas serve as important genetic reservoirs for the future. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1169)

Roadless areas have the potential to enhance the survival of island populations such as source sink populations that are becoming more common in the fragmented landscapes. Source sink populations are isolated populations that together, through continual migrations, act as single regional population. A "source" is an area where populations grow and produce emigrants, and a "sink" is an area where populations cannot sustain themselves in the absence of immigration from source areas. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

GREATEST GOOD

I think that the most good for the most number of people would be served by keeping as much of the NPNF/CNF roadless as possible. (Individual, REDLANDS, CA - 940)

NO MOTORIZED USE

All roadless lands in the national forests should be managed for their wilderness values. This includes no motorized vehicle access, including snowmobiles. There is no excuse for sacrificing the future ecological viability of our public land for the sake of peoples' motorized toys. (Individual, DAVIS, CA - 3871)

Please protect all roadless areas from development and motors. (Individual, SAN DIEGO, CA - 141)

We encourage you to prohibit motorized use is roadless areas altogether, yet realize the difficulties of implementing such a policy across both Forests. Allowing current levels of motorized use will result in continued degradation of wilderness and roadless values, as has been documented. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

NOT SUITABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT

We feel strongly that remaining roadless areas should be managed to retain roadless characteristics. In the 1987 Forest Plans, 2/3 of the roadless areas were deemed suitable for development (road construction and timber harvest). It became obvious in the ensuing years that these lands were for the most part unsuitable for development, both from economic and environmental standpoints. We feel that virtually all roadless areas should remain roadless and be off limits to development. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 38)

OFFSET GLOBAL WARMING

If we keep these areas roadless, they will remain as healthy forests, providing clean water, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities for generations. They will also provide oxygen and act as a carbon dioxide sink, helping to offset global warming. (Individual, BYFIELD, MA - 718)

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF NOXIOUS WEEDS

The Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests should restrict all road construction and commercial harvests in IRAs to preserve native plant communities and discourage noxious weed expansion. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

PROTECT FISH

It is safe to say that the future of some of Idaho's rarest and most imperiled fish species lies in the management decisions the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests will make regarding roadless areas. . . . The unroaded condition of these lands is the reason these strongholds exist. To maintain them, these areas must remain roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

PROTECT FISH AND WILDLIFE

A Trout Unlimited report released last summer graphically demonstrates the link between Idaho's remaining roadless public lands and the best of the state's coldwater fish and wildlife habitat and the best fishing and hunting opportunities. (Preservation/Conservation, POLLOCK, ID - 1142)

PROTECT HABITAT

Additionally, we feel that the inventoried roadless areas should remain roadless. These roadless areas provide habitat for many rare and sensitive species and also contain remaining stands of the old growth forest structure. (Individual, TWIN FALLS, ID - 128)

High quality pristine low elevation roadless areas provide priceless habitat for many species. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 23)

PROTECT OLD GROWTH

It is very important that these areas remain road free. Not only is it sensitive habitat, it contains some of the best old growth forest in the Northern Rockies. This area is functioning as healthy forest and providing clean water; a precious commodity without which none of us can survive. (Individual, DOYLESTOWN, OH - 144)

PROTECT SPECIES OF CONCERN

Areas like the Upper Lochsa, Coolwater Ridge, Pot Mountain, and Mallard-Jersey all display populations of species of concern and/or sensitive species. These areas are all primarily roadless. Loss of their roadless character, through disturbance and road construction, puts at real risk the continued existence of these sensitive species because of exotic weed infestations and just the physical loss of habitat. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

PROTECT WATER QUALITY

Research (see bibliography) on the CNF has shown that water quality and fish habitat in roadless areas, even though these areas have seen major fire, is far better than in roaded areas. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Because these roadless areas are generally in pristine condition and are meeting water quality standards for temperature, sediment, and other aquatic measure, they must be protected. Roading and logging, however, inevitably degrade watersheds. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR - 3869)

Undeveloped areas have been spared from the increased erosion associated with road building, logging and other forms of development that causes damaging sedimentation of streams and rivers. These roadless areas therefore harbor some of the country's most intact aquatic ecosystems, and play a critical role in efforts to bring about the recovery of imperiled stocks of salmon and other native fish. The clean flows they provide are important not only to organisms but also as sources of drinking water. And particularly where forested, these areas regulate stream flows and reduce flood threats, absorbing excess waters during storm events and releasing them slowly over time. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID -1169)

PROTECT WOLVES

Given the tenuous foothold that wolves have begun to claw out in the Nez Perce region I would urge that large areas be allowed to remain roadless or at a minimum inaccessible to ORVs and ATVs. (Individual, PHOENIXVILLE, PA - 4892)

RENEW THE SPIRIT

Forests should be kept roadless for a number of reasons. As our population grows our country needs places for the people to go for peace of mind and renewing the spirit. Hiking, hunting, and fishing can all be persued in a roadless area. (Individual, KAPAAU, HI - 2774)

WILDLIFE DISPERSAL

Roadless areas may well pay an important role in the movement and dispersal of species. Wide ranging species such as elk, bear, and wolverine require large, connected regions for seasonal migrations and general movements through landscapes. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

VII-18. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider management of roadless areas as conservation reserves.

A goal for roadless area management on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests should be the design and establishment of conservation reserves that represent a full range of native biodiversity. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

VII-19. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider closing large roadless areas to motorized recreation.

The large intact roadless areas on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests should be closed to motorized recreation. The roadless lands on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests are among the healthiest forests in the entire Columbia River Basin, and motorized recreation would do nothing to enhance or maintain the health of these forests. Motorized recreation fragments wildlife habitat, introduces invasive species, increases erosion, and generally degrades many of the values which currently characterize these large, undeveloped areas. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

We strongly recommend that restrictions on motorized use be significantly expanded in inventoried roadless areas. Specific criteria should be developed to evaluate the appropriateness of motorized use in roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

VII-20. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should focus monitoring and enforcement efforts in roadless areas that are sources of drinking water.

Roadless areas that provide local communities with clean drinking water should be prioritized for monitoring and enforcement of closures. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

VII-21. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recommend lands for "Pioneer Area" designation.

We need more areas like the Mallard-Larkin area where some motorized recreation is allowed! (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT - 3773)

VII-22. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure protection of roadless and allow use by mountain bikes.

We encourage the Forest Service to preserve all roadless areas to continue to provide the recreation experience mountain bikers seek. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

VII-23. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should adopt a "reasonable" approach to management of roadless lands.

Roadless and proposed roadless conditions in the national forest need to be reasonable. This should not mean to "lock up" the forests and "throw away the key" if a problem is identified. Access to forests for our economy and recreation is critical. (Individual, COTTONWOOD, ID - 142)

VII-24. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider allowing a wider range of uses in roadless areas.

The inventoried roadless areas need to be modified to accept a wider range of human uses since clearly, sufficient support for congressionally designated wilderness has not been present. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 27)

VII-25. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the need to develop some roadless areas.

(It's) Not necessary to keep (1.5 million acres) roadless, these areas will continue to function as healthy forests, providing clean water, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities for generations to come by not being roadless. The roads provide many needs. (Individual, MERCER ISLAND, WA - 5319)

FOR BIG-GAME HABITAT

With roadless areas we can't have timber harvest. It is a fact that there are more big-game animals in roaded areas than there are in roadless and you want more roadless areas? It sounds to me like just an easy and cheep way of managing the forest by closing it down. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 2099)

FOR FOREST HEALTH

Although they (1.5 million acres of roadless lands) provided habitat for many rare and sensitive species and also contain some of the best remaining stands of old growth forest in the Northern Rockies, they will be put in jeopardy if there is no access to protect them from wildfires. Kept roadless, these areas will cease to function as healthy forests, providing clean water, wildlife habitat. (Individual, CHANDLER, AZ - 451)

I do not support your proposal to eliminate road building and timber harvest in current roadless areas. To properly and efficiently reduce fuel loading and restore western white pine (*Pinus monticola*) into the North Fork ecosystem will require some road construction and timber harvest, followed up with an aggressive planting program to restore genetically improved western white pine seedlings. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID - 2100)

FOR BIG-GAME HABITAT AND FOREST HEALTH

We are concerned that you will not properly consider the roading and active timber management of some key roadless areas. Our concern is over management of other resource values, not over the need of timber production to support local mill capacities. While we support those areas recommended for inclusion as statutorily designated wilderness in the 1987 plans, we suggest a hard look at other roadless areas where timber harvest may be key to safely reducing hazardous fuels and to produce sorely needed quality big game habitat. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID - 57)

FOR GOOD MANAGEMENT

My question on roadless areas is: How can we have good management with out access? How can we have access without roads and motorized access trails? I don't believe we need so much roadless areas. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 2099)

TEMPORARY ROADS

Temporary roads decommissioned after use can continue the roadless status of those land management designations. (Hunting Organization, VIOLA, ID - 3845)

VII-26. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider management of roadless areas for multiple uses.

Roadless areas should be returned to the forest system for multiple-use management. (Recreational, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 2103)

The decision to exclude timber harvest in all roadless areas in my mind has the effect of creating new wilderness areas. Only congress can designate wilderness areas and until they do I feel these lands should be managed for multiple-use. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 7982)

Wild and Scenic Rivers

VII-27. The Forest Plan revision team should recommend additional streams for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Potential eligible wild and scenic rivers should be recommended for inclusion in the wild and scenic river system. (Federal Agency/Elected Official, BOISE, ID - 2083)

I urge each of the following streams be designated as a National Wild and Scenic Rivers, as each stream includes very impressive natural features of national importance significance. Mann's Creek, North Fork Clearwater River, Little North Fork River, Kelly Creek, Cayuse Creek, Liz Creek, Colt Killed Creek Upper Lochsa River, Walton Creek, 4-Bit Creek, Fish Creek, Hungry Creek, Weitas Creek, West Fork Gedney Creek. (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN - 7085)

I urge each of the following streams be designated as a National Wild and Scenic River, as each stream includes very impressive natural features of national importance significance. Meadow Creek, Running Creek, Benjamin Creek, South Fork Clearwater River, John Creek,

Slate Creek, White Bird Creek, Salmon River (additions) No Business Creek, Elk Creek, Jake Creek, Moose Creek, Three Links Creek. (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN - 7085)

The evaluations from the previous plans should be updated. All the areas studied should be considered eligible for wild and scenic river status. In the previous plans (appendices M and P), some areas were inappropriately categorized. Cayuse Creek should be a wild river except for two short segments where it crosses the 581 road. Bargamin creek should be wild except where it crosses the Magruder Road. Running Creek should be wild. Lake Creek should be wild except where it crosses the road in the Buffalo Hump. Additional segments should be evaluated including: Clearwater National Forest – Weitas Creek and tributaries; Fish and Hungery Creeks; Upper North Fork (above 255 bridge); Colt Killed/White Sands Creek; Lake Creek; Warm Stprings Creek; Collins Creek; Fourth of July Creek; Lolo Creek; Boulder Creek; Old Man Creek; Isabella Creek; North Fork Palouse. Nez Perce National Forest – Meadow Creek (all of its tributaries); Gedney Creek (all of it); Tenmile Creek; Big Mallard Creek; Crooked Creek (below confluence with Lake Creek, which is in appendix P); Crooked River; American River; Red River; Wind River. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

The Tribe encourages the forests to make additional recommendations for inclusion of rivers into the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Tribe strongly endorses the following obvious candidates for wild and scenic status; the North Fork of the Clearwater River, the Little North Fork, Kelly Creek, Cayuse Creek, Cold Killed Creek, Fish Creek, Hungery Creeks, Meadow Creek, Bargamin Creek, Running Creek, White Bird Creek, segments of the Salmon River, Johns Creek, Lake Creek, SlateCreek, Bargamin Creek, Bear Creek, Moose Creek, and the Three Links complexes. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID - 3867)

There are obvious candidates like the North Fork - Clearwater River, Kelly Creek, Cayuse Creek, Colt Killed Creek, Fish and Hungry Creeks. We agree that forest plan direction should clearly maintain all wild and scenic values of eligible segments. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1169)

The evaluations from the previous plans should be updated. All the areas studied should be considered eligible for wild and scenic river status. In the previous plans (appendices M and P), some areas were inappropriately categorized. Cayuse Creek should be a wild river except for two short segments where it crosses the 581 road. Bargamin Creek should be wild except where it crosses the Magruder Road. Running Creek should be wild. Lake Creek should be wild except where it crosses the road in the Buffalo Hump.
Additional segments should be evaluated including:
Clearwater NF: Weitas Creek and tributaries; Fish and Hungery Creeks; Upper North Fork (above 255 bridge); Colt-Killed/White Sands Creek; Lake Creek; Warm Springs Creek; Collins Creek; Fourth of July Creek; Lolo Creek; Boulder Creek; Old Man Creek; Isabella Creek; North Fork Palouse.
Nez Perce National Forest: Meadow Creek (all of its tributaries); Gedney Creek (all of it); Tenmile Creek; Big Mallard Creek; Crooked Creek (below confluence with Lake Creek, which is in appendix P); Crooked River; American River; Red River; Wind River. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Recommend Johns, Lake and Slate Creeks and segments of the Salmon River for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Recommend White Bird Creek and segments of the Salmon River for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers system. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Recommend Meadow, Bargamin and Running Creeks for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Recommend the North Fork Clearwater River (all segments) for inclusion to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Accelerate the process. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

(I recommend) . . . Wild and Scenic River status for North Fork Clearwater River. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 137)

Recommend Fish and Hungery Creeks for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Fish and Hungery Creeks (should be recommended for) Wild and Scenic Rivers designation. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 137)

Recommend Bear Creek, Moose Creek, and the Three Links complexes for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

VII-28. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recommend any eligible river for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Wild and scenic rivers are also a rare and valued component to any forest. I would like to see any eligible rivers recommended for such designation, protection, and managed as such. Additionally, if there are stretches of river that could be added on to existing wild or scenic rivers, I would very much like to see their inclusion. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 45)

VII-29. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should accelerate the process to recommend streams for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Forests should use existing information to recommend eligible wild and scenic river segments immediately. The Forests should stop studying and accelerate the process to recommend eligible rivers and streams for inclusion in the wild and scenic rivers system. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1169)

VII-30. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not recommend additional streams for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

We are opposed to adding any river segments to the list of Wild and Scenic River designations. (Place-Based Group, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 3848)

IF IT INTERFERES WITH CAMPING

If I understand the Wild and Scenic designation right, camping could be restricted along the rivers. If this is true, then I would not be in favor of the Wild and Scenic designation for the area. There are a lot of people that camp along the river and I'm sure they would be very unhappy if they were not allowed to camp where they want. Special-Use Permittee; OROFINO, ID - 3161)

LOCAL MANAGEMENT

Public Lands Access Year-round (PLAY) opposes Wild and Scenic River designations as we feel it takes management out of the hands of the local land managers who may be more responsive to local conditions. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID - 4389)

EXISTING PROTECTIONS ARE ENOUGH

Any classification of streams in any of the two forests is not needed. The in-place restrictions such as PACFISH and INFISH protect these streams sufficiently. By changing the classifications the much-needed management of renewable resources will be further limited. This will go against the much need movement of managing for catastrophic fires and the well being of timber dependent towns. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 138)

VII-31. The Clearwater-Nez Perce planning zone should not recommend streams for the "wild and scenic" classification if a road is alongside it.

I have a problem with any river being classified as Wild and Scenic, if has a road along side it. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 3851)

Wilderness

Recommended

VII-32. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests has made an appropriate wilderness recommendation.

The Service supports the Proposed Action review of the approximately 1.5 million acres of inventoried roadless areas (IRAs), and the forests' proposal to recommend appropriate areas to Congress for designation as wilderness. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID - 2083)

While we support those areas recommended for inclusion as statutorily designated wilderness in the 1987 plans, we suggest a hard look at other roadless areas where timber harvest may be key to safely reducing hazardous fuels and to produce sorely needed quality big game habitat. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID - 57)

VII-33. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recommend additional areas for wilderness designation.

VALUE OF WILDERNESS

Every acre of wilderness we designate now will be doubly valued by future generations, because if we don't take care of the land now, our children and grandchildren will not thank us. (Individual, DEARY, ID - 5463)

I urge that you recommend the highest possible acreage of biologically productive (i.e. large amounts of coarse woody debris) for wilderness designation. I recognize that there are political pressures from USDA and Washington to do the opposite, but road building, high-grading, and below-cost sales are very short-sighted and damaging to soils and systems over the very long term. (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN - 12)

Expand the wilderness recommendation based on ecological values, which are threatened but unchanged at its core, and based on social values, which have changed since the first round of forest plans. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

SITE-SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

. . . establish these national forests; Clearwater, Nez Perce National Forests as the Clearwater Mountains National Preserve of 4,186,000 acres, and with designated Clearwater Mountains National Preserve Wilderness of 3,773,000 acres . . . . (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN – 3879)

Moose-Cayuse, Weitas, Mallard-Meadow and Upper Lochsa deserve inclusion in the proposed wilderness (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 1146)

Moose-Cayuse. According to a report from Trout Unlimited, this area is a stronghold for westslope cutthroat and bull trout, the latter of which are indicators of habitat quality and require cold, clean water. Bull trout need safe, protected habitat, the kind offered by wilderness designation. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 3841)

Some additional areas with wilderness characteristics should be included in the wilderness and non-motorized designation. These are: Fish Lake and the Lake Creek corridor; Moose-Cayuse; Weitas; Mallard Meadow; and Upper Lochsa. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 3762)

Most or all of the remaining roadless lands should be designated wilderness, especially Meadow Creek, Weitas Creek, Pot Mountain, Fish Creek, the Great Burn, Coolwater Ridge, North Fork Clearwater, Moose-Cayuse, White Sand/Selway Bitterroot Additions, and Mallard Larkins. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 4385)

Recommend for Congressional designation the following areas for wilderness protection. This includes: Mallard-Meadow; Great Burn including the Fish Lake basin; Moose-Cayuse; Weitas; Upper Lochsa; and Meadow Creek. (Individual, EUGENE, OR- 51)

I recommend wilderness designation from Tick Creek to Lost Creek, for all of the roaded part of the Fish Creek drainage, for Weir Creek, and for all the land south of Highway 12 (particularly land surrounding Jerry Johnson Hot Springs). (Individual, SEATTLE, WA - 3283)

Specific recommendations for wilderness include the Great Burn and Mallard-Larkins Areas. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID - 3867)

I applaud the proposed wilderness designation for Kelly Creek, the Great Burn, and Mallard-Larkins - but it is not enough. Slivers of wilderness simply will not suffice if we hope to pass on to future generations the kind of experience that we now enjoy in Idaho's wild lands. (Individual, FEDERAL WAY, WA - 5422)

Due to outstanding roadless and wildlife values, much of this area should be managed for future inclusion in the wilderness system. These areas include Bighorn Weitas, North Lochsa Slope, and Weir-Post Office Roadless Areas. It is disappointing to see that this is not one of the goals. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 38)

Stop road-building, extensive logging, mining, now and protect these areas from further abuse in the new forest plan. This should include the proposal for designation of new Wilderness areas at Pot Mountain, Weitas Creek, the Great Burn, and more. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID - 3888)

The following roadless areas have very high wilderness values and should be recommended for Wilderness protection in this FP revision: 1) Cayuse, 2) Weitas, 3) Mallard-Larkins/Five Lakes area, 4) Fish/Hungery Creeks, 5) Pot Mountain, 6) Coolwater, 7) Lochsa Face, 8) Elk Summit, 9) Great Burn (Individual, STEVENSVILLE, MT - 2087)

A map developed by Conservation Geography vividly shows the importance of protecting roadless areas to protect areas of high mammal and bird diversity, as well as habitats not well represented in existing protected areas. Areas like the Upper Lochsa, Moose-Cayuse, Weitas, Meadow Creek, Fish and Hungery (Creeks), all contain large areas of high mammal and bird diversity. Protecting these areas as wilderness will protect their existing diversity. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID- 3784)

Conservation Geography has developed a map of the Clearwater Basin that displays aquatic priority areas, which show areas in the basin ranked by, the map shows that places like Fish and Hungery Creeks, Mallard-Meadow, Great Burn, Moose-Cayuse, Upper Lochsa, Meadow Creek and Rapid River all demonstrate a high priority for aquatic protection. These stronghold areas for imperiled aquatic resources deserve permanent protection as wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

I find the absence of wilderness proposals for Meadow Creek, Cayuse Creek, Fish Creek, and the North Lochsa slope, Pot Mountain, Fourth of July Creek, and Weitas Creek to be very disturbing. These wild lands deserve the highest protection. (Individual, FEDERAL WAY, WA - 5422)

The amount of additional recommended wilderness in the proposal is woefully inadequate, omitting such obvious additions as Coolwater (in which there should be no" occasional timber harvest" or "semi-primitive motorized experience"), the entire Meadow Creek drainage (east and west sides, with no timber harvest in the west side), the Weitas Creek drainage, and an obvious conjoining of the Mallard/Meadow/Pot Mountain geographic areas which would provide excellent contiguous wildlife habitat (obliterating and re-vegetating the Mush Saddle road, which goes nowhere since the Quartz Creek slide. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID - 136)

From the standpoint of wilderness, Idaho Environmental Council would like to suggest that one alternative recommend something fairly close to all roadless in wilderness. Another could properly recommend just those areas with the widest public support: Mallard-Larkins (expand to include Chamberlain), Great Burn (including Cayuse Creek), Fish and Hungery (the proposed Lewis and Clark Trail Wilderness), some part of Weitas (Cook Mountain), significant wilderness restoration to Elk Summit, and by no means the least, all of the Meadow Creek, nothing in Weitas). This kind of realistic range is necessary if a genuine knowledge of resource tradeoffs is to be made available to the public. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 25)

Clear Creek Proposed Wilderness - 1844. This area is surrounded by development. This area has escaped logging because fires early in this century replaced some of the forest with shrubs. This area is crucial wildlife winter range. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Dixie Summit/Nut Hill Proposed Wilderness - 1235. A unique RNA is inside this area. Much of it has been excluded since the RARE II inventory though it appears development was not as extensive as the boundary adjustment would indicate. Also, land to the north of the formal IRA is roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Eldorado Creek Proposed Wilderness - 1312. This is the last natural area remaining in the more gentle and rolling forests that used to characterize northern Idaho. Much of this area has been logged and it may no longer be roadless and 5,000 acres in size. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Goddard Creek Proposed Wilderness - 1843. This area occupies the central position between O'Hara Falls and Middle Fork Face. This area contains habitat for unique coastal disjunct species including the rare and declining Pacific dogwood and anadromous fish. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

John Day Proposed Wilderness - 1852. John Day has two streams with anadromous fish, John Day and Allison Creeks. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Kelly Mountain Proposed Wilderness - 1857. This area drains into the Salmon east of Riggins. It was studied during RARE II but ignored in the forest plan inventory, probably due to size. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Lick Point Lick Point Proposed Wilderness - 1227. This is the headwaters of the American River and it is crucial that habitat be protected for TES fish species. It is important moose range and much of the area was burned in fires early in this century. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Little Slate Proposed Wilderness - 1851. This area contains important tributaries to Slate Creek, and important anadromous fish stream. A unique lake in Nut Basin and an RNA in No Business Creek are important natural features. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Meadow Creek/Vanderbilt and Rawhide Proposed Wilderness - 1302 and 1313 (also Idaho Panhandle and Lolo National Forests) This is wild headwaters of both the North Fork proper and the St. Joe Rivers with isolated mountain lakes like Trail, Oregon, and St. Joe Lakes. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Middle Fork Face Proposed Wilderness - 1842. This area contains steelhead and important winter range. Lawless logging under the salvage rider may have destroyed this area. It may no longer be 5,000 acres in size. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

North Fork Slate Proposed Wilderness - 1850. Slate Creek is important anadromous fish habitat. Steep rim rock characterizes much of this country. It contains historically significant sites. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

O'Hara Falls Proposed Wilderness - 1226. O'Hara Creek is a unique diverse drainage with an RNA and large ferns. A scenic waterfall and important anadromous fish habitat is within the unit. This area contains habitat for unique coastal disjunct species including the rare and declining Pacific dogwood. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Silver Creek - Pilot Knob Proposed Wilderness - 1849. This area is of significance to the Nez Perce Tribe. Pilot Rock is a unique natural feature and several meadows are found below the peaks. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Siwash Proposed Wilderness - 1303. This area contains steep terrain with lower elevation, coastal disjunct plant habitat. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Weir/Post Office Proposed Wilderness - 12308. This wild section of land is remote with no trails. It has unique features like Ashpile Peak and Weir Creek Hotsprings and is adjacent to Indian Post Office. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

There are a few others (areas on the Clearwater Forest) such as a block of land near Wendover on the Clearwater NF, just south of the 500 road that may be 5,000 acres in size andof Wilderness Quality. Regardless, these roadless areas should be identified. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

I urge that each of the following areas with acres be designated as Wilderness. In such areas and acres contain outstanding wilderness attributes of certain national significance. Clearwater National Forest: Mallard Larkins 354,000, Hoodoo 338,000, Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork 77,000, Siwash 13,000, Pot Mountain 70,000, Moose Mountain 33,000, Bighorn-Weitas 321,000, North Lochsa Slope 157,000, Weir-Post Office Creek 34,000, North Fork Spruce-White Sand 49,000, Lochsa Face 84,000, Eldorado Creek 8,600, Rawhide 7,200, Sneak Foot Meadows 28,000, Rack Cliff-Gedney 126,000, Lolo Creek 27,000
Nez Perce National Forest: Gospel Hump additions 94,000, O'Hara-Falls Creek 38,000, Tick Pt 14,000, Dixie Summit-Nut hill 19,000 Middle Fork Face 18,000, Rack Cliff-Gedney

126,000, Clear Creek 19,000, Meadow Creek 226,000, Mallard 36,000 Silver-Pilot 33,000, North Fork Slate Creek 20,000, LITTLE Slate Creek 30,000, John Day Creek 23,000, Salmon Face 16,000, Jersey-Jack 92,000, Rapid River 127,000, Beaver Creek 5,200. (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN - 3768)

I urge that each of the following areas with acres be designated as Wilderness: Bighorn Weitas - 345,000, Clear Creek -21,000, Dixie Summit, Nut Hill - 22,000, East/West Meadow Creek-231,000, Elderodo Creek-10,000, Jercy Jack -94,000, Hoodoo-357,000, John Day-24,000, Link Point-12,000, Little Slate Creek-32,000, Lochsa Face-101,000, Lolo Creek-31,000, Mallard-35,000, Middle Fork Face-20,000, Mallard-Larkins-389,000, Lolo Creek (recovery area) 69,000, Meadow Creek; upper mouth-24,000, Moose Mountain-32,000, North Fork Slate Creek-21,000, North Lochsa Slope-15,000, O'Hara Falls Creek-38,000, Pot Mountain-72,000, Rackliff;Gedney-125,000, Rapid River-127,000, Rawhide-9,000, Salmon Face-16,000, Silver Creek; Pilot Knob-34,000, Siwash-13,000, Sneakfoot; North Fork Spruce-80,000, Weir; Post Office Creek-35,000, Gospel Hump additions-94,000, Magruder Corridor(recovery area)-16,000. (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN - 4899)

Idaho Conservation League recommended wilderness:
Mallard Larkins - 220,000 acres total, one half in Clearwater, or 110,000 acres
Great Burn - 179,000 acres I Idaho on Clearwater NF, 98,000 acres in Montana 277,000 total acres
Weitas Creek - 98,000 acres
Lewis -Clark (Fish and Hungery Creeks) 54,000 acres
Moose Mountain - 18,000 acres
Pot Mountain - 50,000
Weir Creek - 27,000 Acres
Elk Summit - 39,000
Lochsa Face - 73,000 acres
Vanderbilt Hill - 46,000 acres
Coolwater Ridge - 35,000 total, 17,000 in Clearwater NF
Clearwater National Forest 710,000 acres recommended wilderness
(Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

Idaho Conservation League recommended wilderness:
Meadow Creek - 185,000 acres
Coolwater Ridge - 35,000 total - 18,000 in Nez Perce NF
Rapid River - 20,000 acres in NPNF, another 35,000 in Payette Forest
Nez Perce National Forest-223,000 acres recommended wilderness
(Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

The central Idaho wilderness complex - also known as the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem, the Greater Salmon-Clearwater Ecosystem or simply the Big Wild - contains the largest contiguous roadless area in the lower 48 states and the largest complex of wildlands south of the Canadian border. It is one of only a few ecosystems that are intact in the lower 48 states, still containing most of its native species . . . . The Clearwater drainage, the upper St. Joe, the drainages north of the Salmon River is the most important area for large carnivores in all of the Rockies, including Yellowstone and Jasper National Parks (see Carroll et al. 2001). . . . The wilderness values of these remaining roadless areas are remarkable. They all need and deserve a wilderness recommendation from the agency. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

COOLWATER RIDGE

Coolwater Ridge - 35,000 acres total, 17,000 in Clearwater NF and 18,000 in Nez Perce NF, in the Coolwater GA, as proposed includes the Glover Creek and Gedney Creek drainages adjacent to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Inclusion in the wilderness would solidify wilderness management and eliminate conflicting motorized uses, while protecting low elevation vegetation and fragile soils. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

ELK SUMMIT

Elk Summit - 39,000 acres and Lochsa Face - 73,000 acres, in the Upper Lochsa GA and Middle Lochsa GA, is an obvious addition to ecological stronghold and recreational opportunities of the Selway-Bitterroot. Prime steelhead spawning in Colt Killed Creek. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

FISH AND HUNGERY CREEKS

Lewis-Clark (Fish and Hungery Creeks) 54,000 acres and Weir Creek - 27,000 acres in the Middle Lochsa GA. Proposed wildernesses could be connected along the Lolo Trail with separation by the Grave Creek - Saddle Camp Road, but we have it as two units. Weir Creek provides linkage from Great Burn to the Lochsa River and the Selway-Bittrroot Wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

Middle-Lochsa GA- The roadless lands within the Fish Creek and Hungery Creek drainages of the Middle Lochsa GA should be recommended for wilderness designation by the Forest Service. Two major factors justify permanent wilderness protection for this area; the aquatic values and the historic values associated with Fish and Hungery Creeks. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

Fish and Hungery Creek Proposed Wilderness - 1307 (also called North Lochsa Slope). This area contains the most important steelhead habitat in north central Idaho and crucial wildlands north of Highway 12, the Lochsa River corridor. It also contains the largest unroaded section of the Lewis and Clark Trail. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

FRANK CHURCH-RIVER OF NO RETURN/GOSPEL HUMP

Cove and Mallard Wilderness Addition - 1921 and 1847. This area is the site of the infamous Cove/Mallard timber sales.
Gospel Hump Wilderness Additions. Roadless land that should be added to this inventory was erroneously omitted from the forest plan though included in RARE II. This includes Johns Creek, Boulder Creek, Indian Creek, and other areas. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

GREAT BURN

Fish Lake and Lake Creek wildlife corridors should be proposed as part of the Great Burn Wilderness. (Individual, CHENEY, WA - 4903)

Fish Lake needs to be included in the Great Burn Wilderness proposal, as well as Lake Creek to the existing trailhead. (Individual, STEVENSVILLE, MT - 2087)

Please include Fish Lake and the Lake Creek corridor in the proposed Great Burn wilderness. Aquatic and riparian corridors provide key habitat and key connections for a host of species that must move across an increasingly fragmented landscape. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 4893)

Great Burn-179,000 acres in Idaho on Clearwater NF, 98,000 acres in Montana 277,000 total acres, can be combined with Moose Mountain - 18,000 acres, to combine wilderness in Moose-Cayuse GA and Great Burn GA. A portion of the Weitas GA in Forth of July Creek is also included in our proposed Great Burn wilderness . . . . The 1987 Great Burn recommended wilderness should be expanded to provide greater ecological protection and greater recreational opportunity. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

Great Burn and Moose-Cayuse Geographic Areas. All the roadless lands within the Great Burn and Moose-Cayuse Geographic Areas should be recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service for a Great Burn Wilderness. Kelly Creek's blue ribbon westlope cutthroat trout fishery is nationally known and deserves the strongest resource protection measure available, which would be wilderness designation. The addition of the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area to the Great Burn would create a much more ecologically intact and functioning Great Burn Wilderness Area. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 378

We request that you use the 1987 Clearwater forest plan boundaries for the Great Burn with one exception. Our exception to the 1987 plan boundaries is that we request that the western boundary of the Great Burn be extended to Swamp Ridge. Extending the proposed wilderness boundary to Swamp Ridge provides an essential western boundary for the protection of the heart of the Great Burn. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 3841)

The Great Burn Proposed Wilderness - 1301 (or Hoodoo also on the Lolo National Forest). This quarter million acres gem harbors the incomparable Kelly Creek and includes its confluence with Cayuse Creek. This area forms a major headwaters for the North Fork of the Clearwater. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

HELLS CANYON WILDERNESS

Rapid River - 20,000 acres in NPNF, another 35,000 in Payette Forest, watershed for salmon-steelhead, including Rapid River Fish Hatchery; low elevation, dry canyon connection to Hells Canyon Wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

The Nez Perce Forest should coordinate with the Payette National Forest to add the roadless area of the Rapid River drainage to the Hells Canyon Wilderness. Providing some lower elevation habitat to the east side of the Seven Devils creating a protected landscape extending from a high of 8,300 feet down to a low of 2,100 feet along the lower end of Rapid River. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

Rapid River Wilderness Addition - 1922 (also Payette National Forest). The Rapid River is a wild and scenic river and contains crucial anadromous fish habitat for Chinook salmon. The area is unique in that it escaped fires early in this century. It is a very popular backcountry area and should be added to the Hells Canyon Wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Salmon Face Wilderness Addition (to Hells Canyon Wilderness) - 1855. This area contains spectacular scenery adjacent to the Hells Canyon Wilderness. It also contains a significant, natural cave which has created recent management controversy. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

MALLARD-LARKINS

Mallard Larkins-220,000 acres in Clearwater; from low elevation to high alpine lands; includes rare coastal- disjunct vegetation . . . . Most of the Mallard-Meadow GA is included in the proposal. The current 1987, recommended wilderness should be expanded for ecological and social values. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area, All the roadless lands within the Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area should be recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service for a Mallard-Larkins Wilderness. Expanding upon the original forest plan wilderness recommendations to include Elizabeth Mountain, Chamberlain Mountain, and the land east of Hoodoo Pass diversifies this wilderness and offers permanent protection to strongholds for aquatic species like westlope cutthroat and bull trout as well as high quality wildlife habitat. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

Mallard-Meadow. All roadless lands within this Geographic Area should be recommended for wilderness. GBGS requests that the recommended wilderness boundary for Mallard-Meadow be extended east so that the Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork and Rawhide IRAs are included. This diversifies the wilderness and offers permanent protection for aquatic species such as westslope cutthroat and bull trout, as well as high quality wildlife habitat. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 3841)

Mallard-Larkins Proposed Wilderness - 1300 (also on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests). This spectacular, diverse area of 200,000 plus acres encompasses most of the high country between the St. Joe and North Fork Clearwater Rivers. It also has (it previously had more) crucial low elevation habitat and coastal disjunct. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

MEADOW CREEK

Meadow Creek - 185,000 acres in the Meadow Creek GA, is the critical addition to the Nez Perce wilderness system and should be the primary recommended wilderness inclusion in the revised Nez Perce forest plan. Meadow Creek is part of the core Selway River ecosystem, with the largest drainage running north-south providing significant differences from the rest of the drainage - in aspect, and vegetation. Western red cedar habitat is significant in low elevations, with elevations running from over 7,000 feet to less than 3,000 feet. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

Meadow Creek - all the roadless lands within the Meadow Creek GA should be recommended by the Forest Service for addition to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Meadow Creek is the largest roadless area on the Nez Perce National Forest, and is a stronghold for aquatic species. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

Regarding Meadow Creek, the plan says that we should maintain roadless character east of Meadow Creek as criterion for wilderness consideration. Well, if that is the intent, then declare that area as designation for wilderness. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA - 3283)

MOOSE-CAYUSE

With regard to Moose-Cayuse, the plan provides primitive non-motorized backcountry experiences and retaining the roadless wilderness character. Why not just recommend it for wilderness designation? If the reasoning is that existing snowmobile usage prevents wilderness, then recommend a wilderness with some (heavily regulated) snowmobile use. The current Boulder-White Clouds initiative provides for ATV trails within the wilderness. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA - 3283)

I hiked and camped on Moose Mountain in July-this would be a great area to include in any proposed wilderness study area and should be protected from motorized vehicle use. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 3284)

Moose Mountain Proposed Wilderness - 1305. This is a rugged and scenic area with important headwater tributaries. It has few trails which makes the area of interests to hikers seeking a challenge. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID -3164)

POT MOUNTAIN

Pot Mountain - 50,000 acres; low elevation along the North Fork Clearwater up to higher elevations lands, 2,700 to 7,000 foot gradient overall; significant western red cedar on the north and west; highly erosive soils and landslide prone areas not suitable for motorized or mechanized recreation or logging. . . . Most of the Pot Mountain GA is included. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

Wilderness designation for Pot Mountain is critical because it provides a bridge between the wild Weitas and the Mallard Larkins. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA – 3283)

Pot Mountain Proposed Wilderness - 1304 This is a wild area noted for black bear and elk. It contains a diversity of habitat from cedar-hemlock to spruce. The round size of the area makes it an integral block of wild country 8 miles wide and 8 miles long with no intrusions. It is perhaps the wildest area on the Clearwater National Forest. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

There is need for a wilderness designation that will protect the heart of the Pot Mountain area. Historic motorized use can be accommodated, but will have to be strictly regulated. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA - 3283)

SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS

Upper Lochsa GA; The wilderness recommendations from the first generation Clearwater forest plan should be expanded to include all the roadless lands in the Colt Killed Creek drainage, including Walton Creek. The aquatic values of this drainage more than justify a wilderness recommendation by the Forest Service to add this area to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

Upper Lochsa. The wilderness recommendations from the current Clearwater plan should be expanded to include all roadless lands in the Colt Killed Creek drainage. Security areas for moose, pine martin, wolves, and wolverines have been identified here. In addition, an Upper Lochsa wilderness would establish a much needed north south corridor for wildlife migration . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 3841)

Selway-Bitterroot Additions - These are all logical additions to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and many were previously included in the old Selway Primitive Area. They contain crucial low elevation habitat and important wet meadow complexes.
White Sand Creek, North Fork Wilderness Addition - 1309. Many of the streams and rivers in these areas still run wild with rare steelhead, bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. . . .
Sneakfoot Wilderness Addition - 1314. This wet area is home to a thriving moose herd. . . because of the unique wet meadows, a portion of the area is an RNA.
Lochsa Face Wilderness Addition - 1311. This is the steep face of the Lochsa River adjacent to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. It contains the famous Jerry Johnson Hot Springs and important tributaries to the Lochsa River
Rackcliff-Gedney Wilderness Addition (see Nez Perce National Forest)
Lolo Wilderness Addition - 1805 (mostly on the Lolo National Forest) - This is part of a large roadless area that encompasses the north flank of Lolo Peak, the northern boundary of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.
Section 16 Wilderness Addition - 1310 - This area is adjacent to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and just south of the Lolo Creek area. It was erroneously dropped from the 1987 forest plan inventory though included in RARE II. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

These are all logical additions to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. A portion of Meadow Creek was previously included in the old Selway Primitive Area. These areas contain clean water and crucial fish habitat.
Meadow Creek Wilderness Addition - 1845. This huge roadless area, over 200,000acres, is a real gem. It has huge cedars and fir, mixed with ponderosa and lodgepole pine. . . This is perhaps the most important anadromous fish habitat on the entire

Nez Perce National Forest. There are areas in the East Fork of the American River and Kirks Fork that need to be added.
Rackcliff-Gedney Wilderness Addition - 1841 (also Clearwater National Forest) - This large area occupies the divide between the Lochsa and Selway Rivers. It includes important historical sites, popular trails, scenic lakes, and winter range for ungulates.
Upper Bear Creek Wilderness Addition. This area, about 700 acres, has been in wilderness proposals though it was inadvertently neglected in the Nez Perce Forest plan inventory. However, it appears to have been included in Bitterroot National Forest inventories as it is contiguous with the Selway-Bitterroot additions on that forest (although it is in Idaho, on the Nez Perce National Forest). (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VANDERBILT HILL

Vanderbilt Hill - 46,000 acres, includes the headwaters of the North Fork Clearwater; proposed wilderness is contained in the Mallard Meadow GA. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

WEITAS

Weitas Creek - 98,000 acres in Weitas GA, most of the lands that drain into Weitas Creek itself, not directly into the North Fork. Prime summer and winter range big game habitat; prime cutthroat trout fishery; historic resources; low elevation forests and good representations of old growth forests. . . . After expansion of the Great Burn and Mallard Larkins recommended wilderness, Weitas Creek should be a primary inclusion into the recommended wilderness of the revised Clearwater Forest Plan. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

The roadless lands within the Weitas GA should be recommended for wilderness designation by the Forest Service. . . . The existing westlope and cutthroat trout habitat and wildlife habitat is best served by permanent protection as wilderness. . . . . The area also contains large tracts of cedar and mixed mesic forests with high biological diversity. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

Weitas. The existing westslope and cutthroat trout habitat and wildlife habitat of this geographic area is best served by permanent protection as wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 3841)

Why not recommend wilderness for Weitas eastern half (including Forth of July Creek) and especially in upper Weitas Creek? If the argument is the existing ATV usage prevents wilderness. I say declare a wilderness with some (heavily regulated) ATV use. They could be allowed on designated trails up to where Little Weitas Creek joins Weitas Creek. South and east of this point, they should be prohibited. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA - 3283)

Weitas Creek Proposed Wilderness - 1306 (Bighorn-Weitas) this area has, along lower Weitas Creek, low elevation, broad river valley country that is very rare to find in a roadless condition. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VII-34. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recommend the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests for wilderness designation.

Mother Nature is still - and always will be - the best possible manager of America's few remaining untrammeled areas. Therefore the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests deserve the permanent protection provided by a Congressional Wilderness designation. (Individual, HOPKINTON, IA - 4392)

VII-35. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recommend all roadless lands for wilderness designation.

. . . take all possible measures to keep these forests at least as wild, natural, and healthy as they currently are, including all large undeveloped and roadless areas in plans and recommendations for congressional wilderness designation . . . . (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 5437)

I would urge you to please keep all roadless areas roadless. I have always felt that these are areas that truly deserve wilderness status. It is unfortunate that their future has depended upon the political whims of the powers that be and have been "left hanging" for so long. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 5425)

Since wilderness designation provides the greatest protection for these lands, recommending wilderness designation for the remaining IRA's in the Clearwater/Nez Perce Forests would insure that "the unique character of each recommended area is preserved until Congress acts on the recommendation of the Forests Service" (p.11), thus removing the IRA's from contention. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID - 136)

All of the roadless areas, including those erroneously missed in the inventory (some land contiguous to Meadow Creek, land contiguous to the Gospel-Hump, and some land contiguous to the Selway-Bitterroot), should be recommended for wilderness. The proposed action only proposes negative changes in recommended wilderness. (Individual, TROY, ID - 4383)

I strongly urge you to adopt and recommend to Congress that all wilderness study areas, and all remaining roadless lands 500 acres or more, be permanently protected as wilderness. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 130)

VII-36. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recommend areas with unique resource values for wilderness designation.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) encourages recommendations for wilderness where such designation would be appropriate to protect unique resource values and provide a higher level of natural resource protection. (Federal Agency/Elected Official, SEATTLE, WA - 7081)

The forest plans of the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forests should expand and fill in areas of critical need for ecological banks. Areas of different habitat types and biological values found on the Clearwater Forest should also be high priority for inclusion as recommended wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

The Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project well defined and identified many of these same values as the Conservation Assessment of Idaho. We encourage you to combine both analyses to establish the quality of Clearwater Basin biological reserves and to protect these lands as recommended wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

The Wilderness Society believes that the National Wilderness Preservation System should be expanded and diversified. While Idaho enjoys many diverse wilderness areas, ranging from the grasslands of the steep slopes in Hells Canyon to the alpine peaks of the Sawtooths, the opportunity exists to permanently protect as wilderness significant areas of land and natural resources not currently well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

A primary goal of wilderness on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests should be the permanent protection of aquatic resources. Both forests provide strongholds for some of the most imperiled fish species in the Columbia River Basin. . . . These remaining strongholds deserve wilderness protection. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

VII-37. The Clearwater-Nez Perce planning zone should recommend roadless lands close to the Lewis and Clark Trail for wilderness designation.

I would hope that areas close to the Lewis and Clark Trail that are still roadless can be included in the wilderness. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 1139)

VII-38. The Clearwater-Nez Perce planning zone should recognize the economic value of wilderness lands.

The wilderness designation is unique to the west and can be used for many money-generating programs such as tourism, hunting, fishing, hiking, etc. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 52)

VII-39. The Clearwater-Nez Perce planning zone should ensure protection of lands without recommending them for wilderness designation.

The following areas are fully deserving of protection: Mallard-Meadow, Great Burn, Moose-Cayuse, Weitas, Upper Lochsa and Meadow Creek. The wilderness designation is much too restrictive, we need to maintain these areas as nonmotorized and still be able to use chain saws to clear trails. (Non-Motorized/Non-Mechanized Recreation, DEER PARK, WA - 86)

VII-40. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not propose areas with trails for wilderness designation.

We also hope you would consider those areas being recommended for wilderness areas that contain trails, would instead be protected by designating them as roadless areas. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

VII-41. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should re-evaluate its wilderness recommendation.

The Forest Service should re-evaluate all currently proposed wildernesses and determine if they really qualify and their highest and best use is designated wilderness. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4388)

VII-42. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not recommend wilderness additions per Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) I and RARE II.

Please refer to RARE I and RARE II concerning wilderness. It was studied extensively at the time and no more areas were qualified or considered necessary. (County Government, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 2081)

VII-43. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not recommend areas for wilderness if lightning-caused fires cannot be allowed to burn.

Are these wilderness areas so positioned that lightning-caused fires can be allowed to play their natural role, or will considerations for values outside of the area curtail that possibility? If the answer is no to enfettered natural fire, the area should be considered unsuitable and managed as something else. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4388)

VII-44. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not recommend any additional land for wilderness designation.

We already have enough wilderness areas. I object to the mutation of the national forest into wilderness. (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT - 3890)

I believe we have more wilderness than we can take care of now and until we get permanent funding we should not add any more area to the wilderness. (Non-Motorized/Non-Mechanized Recreation, DEER PARK, WA - 86)

We do not need any more wilderness area or use restrictions. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 16)

The Concerned Sportsmen of Idaho (CSI) opposes the creation of additional wilderness and inventoried roadless areas in both forests due to the difficulty in managing lands with those designations. (Hunting Organization, VIOLA, ID - 3845)

I am opposed to more wilderness. (Individual, KOOSKIA, ID - 3878)

The proposed wilderness designation in specific areas should be eliminated. If more areas are designated as wilderness that would greatly diminish the already limited recreational opportunities for motorized vehicles. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4461)

I don't think that we need any more wilderness. If you close any more of the trails on the North Fork of the Clearwater River, then those areas will not be used by anyone. A group of us motorcycle riders have covered hundreds of miles on the North Fork every year and we don't see any back packers, nor do we do any harm to the trails. If you close more trails, then the trails that are still open will be used twice as much and that would not help the problem. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4391)

There is too much wilderness now. Any lands designated suitable for wilderness should be managed as semi-primitive recreation areas and remains open for current and historic motorized access. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4394)

GREAT BURN

I oppose the creation of the Big Burn Wilderness. This whole concept does not represent the majority of this region's users. (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT - 3890)

Management Direction

VII-45. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure proper care for wilderness areas.

Will you please help keep the remainder of our wildernesses in a pristine condition, so that our future generations will be able to remember what our country once was, before the industrial age? (Individual, DALLAS, TX - 449)

Good stewardship of our wilderness areas is vital. We can't replace them once they are gone, and we owe care of these areas to future generations. (Individual, PARKERSBURG, WV - 1336)

Whatever the final wilderness recommendations of these plans turns out to be, it is important that all the great values of those recommended areas be maintained, including the wonderful and rare value of silence. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 25)

Please consider our children and grandchildren yet to be born, and protect what little remains of our wilderness for them who as yet have no voice; they will certainly appreciate us if we show some foresight and concern for them. (Individual, COLUMBIA, MD - 2423)

VII-46. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should follow the intent of the Wilderness Act.

The direction for wilderness areas needs to follow the Wilderness Act. Too often, the agency makes decisions contrary to the spirit and letter of the Act. Monitoring to ensure the overriding concern, preservation of wilderness character, needs to be done. (Individual, TROY, ID - 4383)

VII-47. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should include direction for wilderness management.

The plan needs to assess the direction (plans) of the three Wildernesses, revise them where necessary, as well as give overall management direction for these areas to ensure that wilderness character is preserved. All wilderness areas are part of the National Wilderness Preservation System and, as such, should have similarities in stewardship. Furthermore, the direction for wilderness stewardship should emphasize preservation of wilderness character as the law requires. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VII-48. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not allow motorized or mechanized uses in lands recommended for wilderness designation.

IRAs (Inventoried Roadless Areas) recommended for wilderness designation should be closed to motorized and mechanical transportation. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID - 2083)

Thus we support managing roadless areas to retain their roadless character (off limits to development), and support the “prohibition of motorized and mechanized uses in recommended wilderness.” (Individual, MOSCOW, ID - 39)

We also encouraged that you are seeking to restrict motorized and mechanical transportation within recommended wilderness areas. As we have experienced with wilderness campaigns in other parts of the state of Idaho, the entrenchment of motorized and mechanical interests significantly limits the potential for wilderness designation, and is one of the greatest challenges facing new designations. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

PRESERVE OPTIONS FOR CONGRESS

If any motorized routes exist within proposed wilderness areas, they should be closed and rehabilitated. No motorized or mechanized use should be allowed within these areas to preserve Congressional prerogatives and avoid future conflicts. The FS should not take management actions or make any decisions that would potentially impair the wilderness suitability of recommended areas. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

The forests should ensure that routes to, from, and within recommended wilderness (whether proposed by citizens or agencies) would not encourage or allow use that will degrade

wilderness characteristics or in any way impair wilderness suitability. We strongly recommend, and are encouraged that the forests have proposed that such motorized use will be disallowed in these areas, as motorized use is likely to lead to the degradation of naturalness, loss of wilderness qualities, and a bias towards non-designation. Such degradation from motorized use also limits the prerogatives of Congress to designate proposed areas as wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

VII-49. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not consider managing lands recommended for wilderness as if they were wilderness.

Blue Ribbon Coalition (BRC) strongly objects to management of all areas recommended for wilderness as if Congress had actually designated them as such. Indeed, we believe doing so exceeds the Forest Service's statutory jurisdiction and authority. 5 U.S.C. 706(2) (c). (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

VII-50. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not consider restricting access in areas recommended for wilderness designation.

The three areas highlighted in this plan that will expand their roadless, wilderness or wild and scenic river designation are the Mallard-Meadow, the Great Burn and the Upper Lochsa. These three areas are all currently accessible in part by the public now and we urge the forest plan to not include any additional restrictions. When we designate areas not only do we lose our access for recreation, EMS and law enforcement, but we lose state water rights. (Business, OROFINO, ID - 4377)

Wilderness values of a vague and purely subjective nature attempting to create "defacto wilderness" for the exclusion of the motorized community is both inappropriate and illegal. The USFS has found and the courts have held that wilderness values have existed at the time of recommendation for consideration as wilderness although motorized and mechanized recreation existed prior to these recommendations for consideration as similar uses do not destroy the wilderness values. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 27)

MOUNTAIN BIKES

We would encourage the Forest Service to reconsider the proposed action to close recommended wilderness areas to mountain bikes, especially since mountain bike usage does not impair the values of recommended wilderness. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

SNOWMOBILES

Change the proposed wilderness boundaries to allow snowmobile use to continue. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 7090)

Designated Wilderness

VII-51. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure wilderness pilots practice backcountry etiquette.

Continue to record aircraft use at all fly-in public portals (Moose Creek, Shearer and Fish Lake). Continue to work with the Idaho Division of Aeronautics and the Idaho Backcountry Pilots Association encouraging the use of these etiquette. Touch-and-gos the “bagging” of airstrips, and the appropriateness of fly-ins (with a limit in the number of aircraft and participants similar to limits placed on pack stock and river parties). (Individual, PECK, ID - 4381)

VII-52. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure use of the "minimum tool" within the wilderness.

Truly re-institute the concept of "minimum tool" for project planning and implementation. Continue using traditional tools for trail building and maintenance without relying on machines. Stop relying on motorized rock drills. Wilderness bridge replacement: should follow Bud Moore's apt recommendation: "It's really very simple Dick, just keep it primitive." Use native materials, incorporating traditional design, where practicable for primary support timbers. (Individual, PECK, ID - 4381)

VII-53. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider encouraging the "opportunity for discovery" in wilderness.

Do everything possible to maintain and encourage the individuals "opportunity for discovery" by not identifying unique sites. Therefore, delete the Salmon Hole on Bear Creek, as unique. This only calls attention to the site . . . . (Individual, PECK, ID - 4381)

VII-54. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should evaluate outfitting and guiding standards within wilderness.

The Forest Service needs to question whether the current standards for outfitting and guiding fall within the spirit of the Wilderness Act and needs to closely monitor those activities which are permitted. This is an instance where strict standards and guidelines are an absolute necessity. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID - 136

Research Natural Areas

VII-55. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should evaluate and recommend lands for designation as research natural areas.

Research Natural Areas (RNAs) are important to aid in research and understanding of special and unique habitats, species and ecosystems on the forests. The Service supports review of potential new RNAs and recommends designation of additional RNAs, as appropriate. (Federal Agency/Elected Official, BOISE, ID - 2083)

AND/OR SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS

Areas with other special designations (e.g., Research Natural Area-RNA, Special Interest Area-SIA, etc.,) should be identified, and undesignated areas with important ecological, biological, botanical, zoological, paleontological, archaeological, scenic, historic, geological, or other characteristics which may provide potential for additional special area designations should be considered for special designation. We recommend that the USFS contact the Idaho Natural Heritage Programs to learn about any Natural Heritage Program efforts to identify and evaluate important or unique habitats such as high quality wetlands. Important or unique habitats identified by Natural Heritage Programs that are located on national forest land may be worthy candidates for protection through a special designation such as RNAs and SIAs. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA - 7081)

FENN MOUNTAIN RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

The proposed Fenn Mountain Research Natural Area, first surveyed by Chuck Wellner, should be classified as an RNA (Individual, PECK, ID - 4381)

HEMLOCK CREEK

. . . Research natural area status for Hemlock Creek. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 137)

POTLATCH CANYON

Potlatch Canyon might be considered as a special habitat or research natural area. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 137)

WESTERN RED CEDAR GROVES

Ancient western red cedar groves on the forests are of special biological significance. In the 1987 forest plan, the majority of these lower elevation forests were included within the timber base. Because of their uniqueness and significance, we encourage the forests to consider special management designations for these areas. Expansion of research natural areas, or special heritage forest designations for these groves should be considered in the forest plan. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 1170)

VII-56. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure preservation of research natural areas.

Preserve research natural areas by making other resource areas such as fire and recreation aware of the value and rules that apply for keeping these preserves free from human disturbance. Maintain research natural areas for their long-term values to measure ecosystem change. Allow successional changes to take place no matter how much the area may become different from the description in the establishment report. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

AQUARIUS

Aquarius Research Natural Area should continue to be protected with the high diversity of aquatic and terrestrial species there. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 137)

DUTCH CREEK

Dutch Creek Research Natural Area: Preserve research natural areas by making other resource areas such as fire and recreation aware of the value and rules that apply for keeping these preserves free from human disturbance. Maintain research natural areas for their long-term values to measure ecosystem change. Allow successional changes to take place no matter how much the area may become different from the description in the establishment report. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

SNEAKFOOT MEADOWS

Sneakfoot Meadows Research Natural Area: Preserve research natural areas by making other resource areas such as fire and recreation aware of the value and rules that apply for keeping these preserves free from human disturbance. Maintain research natural areas for their long-term values to measure ecosystem change. Allow successional changes to take place no matter how much the area may become different from the description in the establishment report. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

STEEP LAKES RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

Steep Lakes Research Natural Area - Preserve research natural areas by making other resource areas such as fire and recreation aware of the value and rules that apply for keeping these preserves free from human disturbance. Maintain research natural areas for their long-term values to measure ecosystem change. Allow successional changes to take place no matter how much the area may become different from the description in the establishment report. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384

VII-57. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should revise the processes that are evaluated in research natural areas.

Research areas could include the role of riparian soil systems in watershed protection, the interaction of both native and non-native plant species on soil properties, the effect of prescribed burns on soil processes, or research that focuses on land-management strategies that maintain or enhance the soil. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID - 5438)

VII-58. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider excluding all-terrain vehicles from the Lochsa Research Natural Area.

Do not run an all-terrain vehicle shortcut through the Lochsa Research Natural Area. Do not allow all-terrain vehicles to drive through the southeast part of Lochsa Research Natural Area, because this area is the site of rare orchids. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384

National Historic Landmarks

VII-59. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should address management of the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark.

Our chief concern is future management of the Lolo Trail Historic Landmark, cultural sites and ancient Indian trails yet to be identified and protected. A more detailed description (maps) of the areas of concern will be presented to you in person. (Individual, WEIPPE, ID - 125)

Areas of Cultural Significance

VII-60. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure protection of heritage resources.

HISTORIC TRAILS

The goal of all historic trail management should be full retention and protection from further modification and/or abandonment of any kind. No further construction of trails that replace or parallel historic trails should be permitted. (Individual, WEIPPE, ID - 125)

Our bottom line in this issue is the locating and retention of the historic trail system. The present policy on both forests has been to permit these trails to be moved, relocated, remarked, obliterated, filled in with brush, to have blazed and culturally modified trees cut by unattended and unguided prison crews, and to allow newly-constructed trails to be marked "historic." All of that needs to end. These historic trails are one of the great treasures of these two forests, and preservation is the only suitable management regime for them. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 25)

Much of the historic trails have been degraded by logging, road building, and trail building. This activity needs to stop and the trail restored as much as possible to its original condition by obliterating newly constructed trail. The historic trails that have been obliterated by felling trees across the trail and by filling in the ancient trail with woody debris should be cleaned out and the trail cut out (trail obliteration and hazard tree removal). (Individual, WEIPPE, ID - 125)

First, the area contains the largest remaining unspoiled tract along the route of Louis and Clark's expedition. Thus, preserving as much as possible the original condition of the land is important from the standpoint of our national historic heritage. (Individual, GREENVILLE, SC - 104)

The old Boise Trail is historic and should be preserved. (Individual, RIGGINS, ID - 1926)

WITHOUT WILDERNESS OR WILD AND SCENIC DESIGNATION

We favor conserving heritage and scenic resources on all of the forest but do not think we need to have more wilderness and wild and scenic river designations to do it. (Individual, PIERCE, ID – 70)

VII-61. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure the character of historic features is maintained.

The steep primitive Indian trails should not be replaced with a switchback-to-grade modern trail as outlined by the '1990 Lolo Trail System Guidelines Initial draft' which was never approved. To do so is illegally destroying the very character of the Indian trail traveled by the Nez Perce for centuries, Lewis and Clark and other historic travelers such as General Howard. (Individual, WEIPPE, ID - 125)

VII-62. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should address the management of Pilot Knob in forest plan revision.

Pilot Knob is a very important cultural and sacred site to the Nez Perce Tribe. From the Tribe's perspective, the best management of this area would consist of removing existing development and restricting access for non-tribal members. We feel that management of Pilot Knob should be included within the forest plan revision currently being undertaken by the forest. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID - 58)

The Tribe believes that the planning process provides opportunities to provide additional protections to tribal sacred sites, including Pilot Knob. We believe that the Forests should explore using the planning process to provide an extremely high level of protection to the site, including recognizing the site as a traditional cultural property (TCP), restricting non-tribal motorized access, and removing the area from any type of management action. Further, we recommend that discussions occur to include this property in any proposed current or future land exchange/transfer legislation to allow either tribal or BIA ownership/management of the property. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID - 3867)

VII-63. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should provide information about the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark.

Congress asked the Forest Service to "mark and make publicly available" this landmark trail on the Lolo and Clearwater Forests. After 44 years of clear cutting, trail obliteration and neglect, the trail was removed from the CNF map and apparently lost somewhere in the last 2-4 years. The 1915 Lolo Trail location is on your 1915 CNF maps, so if you choose to rediscover the "lost" historic trail that might be a place to start. (Individual, WEIPPE, ID - 1121)

VII-64. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure preservation of the Lolo Trail.

Our interest and goal is to preserve the Lolo Trail path in its original condition as it was October 9, 1960, when designated as a National Historic Landmark. . Also we want all unidentified historic trails and cultural sites within and outside the Landmark corridor identified, intensively surveyed and preserved. (Individual, WEIPPE, ID - 125)

VII-65. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure preservation of the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Will it (the route of Lewis and Clark) be kept for all Americans in the future to experience in the way that we have? Even as easterners, we do have a commitment to the value of wilderness not only for ourselves, but also in the lives of all our citizens.

First, the area contains the largest remaining unspoiled tract along the route of Louis and Clark's expedition. Thus, preserving as much as possible the original condition of the land is important from the standpoint of our national historic heritage. (Individual, GREENVILLE, SC - 104)

VII-66. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should emphasize the historic settings of the Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce Trails.

We ask the Forest Service to manage the Lewis and Clark Trail and the Nez Perce Trail so they will serve as long distance trails that emphasize the historic setting. The land along these trails should reflect the natural conditions in which Lewis and Clark and the Nez Perce people traveled these routes. The trails themselves should allow visitors to have a glimpse of the world as those early travelers were seeing it 200 years ago. (Individual, CATONSVILLE, MD – 1928)

VII-67. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider a provision in plan revisions to require archaeologists to supervise contract trail crews.

Projects by contract trail crews that are not supervised by an archaeologist should no longer be permitted. Examples are the approximate one mile of the Lolo Trail completely blocked by trees felled by the Orofino prison crew the summer of 2004. . . Several culturally modified trees have been illegally cut down in the past along the Lolo Trail. (Individual, WEIPPE, ID - 125)

Chapter 8 – Social and Economic Values

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Social and Economic Values

Social Considerations

VIII-1. The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forests should consider quality-of-life factors that attract people to move to the areas adjacent to these national forests.

The Forest Service must consider demographic changes occurring now and predict changes in the future. Clearly, people are moving to Idaho to enjoy the amenities provided by public land. Increasingly, they are seeking a quiet experience on public lands - and experience that is fast disappearing in suburban communities. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

VIII-2. The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forests should consider the reasons for the creation of public land, the laws that regulate its use and the support of local communities.

Demonstrate concern for support of local communities and industries as proposed and directed in the Organic Act of 1897 which created the national forest system and supported in 1906 by Gifford Pinchot. (Individual, KOOSKIA, ID - 5383)

These public land opponents should look at the reasons why public lands were created and why there are many laws in place to regulate their use. They should also look at private land and compare it to public land in terms of resources for the community.
Public lands were created to protect watersheds and stop the accelerating liquidation of forests throughout the U.S. Along the way, Congress passed regulations because the managers were not doing the job the public intended. . . . Not all the managers had a land ethic most people wanted so they passed laws to direct management. People wanted to protect the public assets for the public good. . . . Managers continue to get around the laws to produce results they personally want, not necessarily wanted by the majority of the public. . . . The democratic process of management is not easy or "efficient" but the outcome has been mostly for the long-term good of public lands and future generations. Streamlining the process will mean less public input and less direction from the landowners and more control by the special interests. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VIII-3. The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forests should consider the national perspective regarding management of these national forests.

Wildlands may appear to be in oversupply when viewed from a local perspective. From a national perspective it is likely viewed in short supply as only three percent of the continental U.S. is unroaded (Forest Service, 2003). Forest Service and BLM lands are our national public lands and should be managed for all citizens, therefore the national perspective should take precedence over the local perspective. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VIII-4. The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forests should consider the role of national forest land in providing quiet refuges.

The value of the Forest Service lands as quiet refuges for wildlife and people alike will grow. As private lands continue to be developed, it will be the FS lands alone that will have to support wildlife. The FS must take this unfortunate reality into account in the revision process. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID - 3784)

Economic Considerations

VIII-5. The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forests should consider local communities and their economic development in plan revisions.

Local economic development and national Forest Service plans and overall direction need to complement each other. (Town Government, OROFINO, ID - 3281)

. . . . Using land activities like restoration as a community development project is constructive for the environment and for community development. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

One important issue is the competition for local public resources. Public resources can take many forms such as wood fiber, labor, recreation, quality of life and clean water. The conflict of use can be an important factor in economic development . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Many rural communities struggle with the appropriate level of government involvement in community economic development. . . . The Forest Service's primary job is not to foster economic development. Other agencies would be more efficient and effective at assisting with community development. . . .
. . . . If the Forest Service is really interested in sustainable economies and a sustainable environment, they need to take a bigger and longer-term look at rural communities. . . . (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Economic activity is based on the place, natural resources and human resources. Well-educated and healthy people are likely to create success and help the overall economy. Attracting these types of people will take a place that offers opportunities and an attractive environment. . . . The forest plan revisions will help encourage community development if they protect the public land resources. . . . Revisions that direct management to protect natural assets will do far more for the economic well being of these counties than any plans that encourage extraction for short-term gains. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VIII-6. The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forests should consider ways to help local communities advertise goods and services.

. . . identify areas where local communities may post information regarding goods and services are available. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID - 4390)

VIII-7. The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forests should consider the effects of diversification on local economies.

The economic structure of the rural west was based on extraction industries and federal government subsidies. . . . . Government subsidies change the market system to favor certain people and outputs. The need for a change towards diversity is important for the future well

being of Clearwater and Idaho Counties. . . . Adjusting to the downsized forest products industry by diversifying the local economies will create a more stable overall economy. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

. . . changes in the economic makeup of rural communities in general have followed a national trend away from extraction and manufacturing and towards services. . . . The economic impacts of a conservation vision for the forest plan revisions will lead to a more diverse economy, therefore a more stable economy. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VIII-8. The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forests should consider quality-of-life factors that attract people to move to the areas adjacent to these national forests and the resultant effects on local economies.

Quality-of-life factors will likely become more important in the future. If public lands are increasingly protected, more people will be drawn to the area for quality-of-life reasons. The service, professional and other sectors will increase as restoration replaces logging. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

The forest plan revisions will have continued economic impacts on rural communities in the Clearwater region. Protection of public lands means safeguarding the public assets including clean water, clean air, abundant wildlife, recreational activities and quality of life. These assets have an indirect effect on the local economy in many ways. Quality-of-life factors including clean water and abundant wildlife may act as a second "income" for residents in the area and as an attraction for potential new residents. Restoration of degraded habitats will help increase the overall values of the public land and provide temporary jobs in the local area. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

[Clearwater County] – Extraction based economic activity has declined in relative importance while transfer payments and non-extraction sectors such as services, have increased. This basic trend is typical throughout the West (Rasker, 2001). (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

[Idaho County] - Transfer payments (non-labor income) have shown the biggest percentage increase of all the economic sectors. Economic planners . . . often ignore this upward trend. As the population ages the potential for more non-employment income increases. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VIII-9. The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forests should consider economic impacts of land management decisions on local communities.

It is critical that the economic impacts be seriously evaluated when identifying areas to be designated as special designated areas. (Town Government, OROFINO, ID - 3281)

Forest access needs to reflect the socio- economic needs of the area. Limiting access hurts businesses and inhibits recreational activities for those who live and work in the Clearwater region. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4461)

The economy of the local communities should have more consideration than the recovery of fish species. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 3851)

It is critical that the economic impacts be seriously evaluated when identifying areas to be designated as special/unavailable for resource management and use. (Place-Based Group, OROFINO, ID - 3282)

International Mountain Bicycling Association strongly encourages the Forest Service to consider the direct impact that forest management decisions will have on the mountain bike related portion of local or regional tourism. (Mechanized Recreation, BOISE, ID - 4387)

VIII-10. The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forests should consider the relationship between local communities and public land.

The relationship between local residents and public land needs to be better understood. The locals like to complain about federal agencies and their land management. The local timber industry has come to expect the federal subsidies through logging sales and PILT [payment in lieu of taxes] payments and do not want to give this income up. The government employees in Clearwater County amount to 25.9 percent of the work force in 2000 and 17.4 percent in Idaho County. . . .

Managing to maximize the market returns will likely decrease the assets of the land taken as a whole. Wildlife and water quality will suffer if not considered as a valuable asset of the land. . . . Public lands are a reservoir for wildlife, clean water and clean air. They also offer recreation opportunities that are key for quality of life and local economic diversity. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Management of federal public lands is not controlled by the local decision-makers and so local communities should not expect public lands to provide the bulk of resources for the local economy. Public lands are owned by all the people in the U.S. and should be managed accordingly. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

. . . . It is unlikely any local community can be totally self-sufficient in today's world but if a rural community can marginally shift away from dependence on urban areas, the net effect will be very positive on the local rural economy. . . . Very little can be done on a local level to influence [the] price of . . . wood fiber. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VIII-11. The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forests should consider the net public benefits in managing these national forests.

The National Forest Management Act . . . requires management of national forest system lands in a manner that "maximizes long-term net public benefits" [36 CFR 219.1(a)]. The Forest Service's planning regulations have defined the term "net public benefits" as the "overall value of positive effects (benefits) less all associated inputs and negative effects (costs)."

The benefits of unlogged forests include but are not limited to: regulating the flow of water in the watershed, specifically, their role in mitigating flash floods and other catastrophic precipitation events; purifying water for downstream users; and maintaining long-term forest productivity.

Forests in the planning area provide a source of native organisms and ecological processes vital to regeneration and forest development in surrounding areas. In addition, the older and larger trees in the planning area are a genetic reservoir of immense value to reforestation efforts on similar sites throughout the region.

The economic value of non-timber uses of the planning area including gathering of forest products, recreation, hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation, and their role in mitigating pests. The structurally diverse habitats in the planning area support bird and bat species that prey upon insects and rodents harmful to forest and cropland health.
(Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VIII-12. The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forests should consider the market value of ecosystem services that forests provide.

The Forest Service must utilize state-of-the-art methods for calculating the market value of these and other ecosystem services provided by forests in the planning area. For example, an international team of scientists recently completed an economic assessment of the ecosystem services provided by 12 distinct ecosystems, estimating the annual market value of these ecosystems to be 33 trillion dollars (Nature's Services: Societal Dependence on Natural Ecosystems, (Island Press, Washington, D.C.). Many other natural resource economists have devised quantitative and qualitative methods for assessing the value of ecosystem services. The Forest Service must make use of these methods and incorporate ecosystem service value as a standard component of the agency's economic impact analysis for each planning alternative. Failure to do so will artificially inflate the value of forests as timber relative to their other important roles in regulating climate, purifying water, and supporting aesthetic or recreational uses. The NPNF and NFC must fully analyze these benefits in order to meet NFMA's mandate to properly assess the value of all forest resources and functions that have a market value (36 CFR 219.12(e)1ii, iii). The NEPA also requires an analysis of these benefits at Section 102, Subsection B of the Act. The revised forest plans for the respective planning areas must include provisions that take into account all benefits provided by forests that are not subjected to commercial logging. For instance, Forest Service economists working with the Interior Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Management Plan (ICBEMP) examined the existence value of roadless areas in the interior Columbia River Basin. The ICBEMP economists estimated the value of various economic outputs from national forest and BLM lands in the Basin, including timber, various recreational activities, and the existence of roadless areas. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Interior Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Management Plan economists' comparative assessment found:
"That the total value of roadless areas (47 Percent) is four times greater than the total value of timber (11 percent)." The government economists concluded, "the existence of unroaded areas is by far the most valuable output from Forest Service and BLM-administered lands in the Basin."
Identify and analyze the economic impact of each alternative on commodity and non-commodity forest resources. These resources include, but are not limited to:
water quality; recreation; wildlife viewing; fishing and hunting; Non-timber forest products industries such as mushroom collecting, berry picking, etc; global climate change and carbon sequestering; wild pollinators; biodiversity and genetic diversity. . . .
(Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VIII-13. The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forests should consider the economic benefits of logging to local communities and the Forest Service.

I . . . submit that the moneys you would receive from logging then burning an area for habitat would do more for the communities and their economic stability than burning alone. This would gain moneys for the Forest Service to use in other areas. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 64)

VIII-14. The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forests should consider payment-in-lieu of taxes and the role of Resource Advisory Committees in plan revisions.

. . . set a priority to communicate, contribute, and support the counties/communities where national forests exist. I would encourage support for increased Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to counties (federal government's duty to pay their equivalent of property taxes-

currently this level is unfairly low). The Resource Advisory Council (RAC) is an excellent concept; to improve the RAC function, there needs to be more RAC governing responsibilities than strictly advisory capacity. (Individual, COTTONWOOD, ID - 142)

VIII-15. The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forests should consider the economic benefits of natural resources, including natural resource extraction and natural resource-oriented recreation.

The Tribe urges the forests to consider the economic benefits of a healthy fishery and good water quality on an equal basis with the economics of timber, grazing, mining, and other extractive natural resource management. For example, several economic studies have documented that recreational fisheries bring in a tremendous amount of money to the citizens and communities adjacent to the national forest. Protecting and restoring water quality and fish habitat also provides high wage earning jobs to local residents, both tribal members and non-Indian contractors. Similarly, hunting, lodging, and rafting bring a great deal of direct, indirect, and recycled revenues to local communities. The high value of the headwaters on national forests provides the primary source of drinking water for several communities. In total, the economic benefits of clean water, and healthy, harvestable levels of fish and wildlife is likely to outweigh the economic benefits of traditional natural resource industries, such as logging, mining, and grazing. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID - 3867)

Include the economics and social values that we in Idaho County hold dear when revising this forest plan. Make the direction of the new plan one that includes off-road vehicle travel, timber and agriculture and mining and recreation. (County Government, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 2081)

Federal lands offer many values for the economy and the local quality of life. In addition federal lands are key to the survival of threatened and endangered species and the abundance of many non-market values, including abundant wildlife.
Economists have conservatively estimated that such "ecosystem services" from native forests worldwide are worth at least $4.7 trillion to the global economy each year. When national forests are logged, these ecosystem services are diminished or lost forever, resulting in externalized costs to those who benefit from such services. (Talberth, J., 2000)
The public land in the Clearwater River Basin is a very valuable economic resource and the management is very important to the local economies as well as the public as a whole. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

Evaluate if the Forests have actually provided for a dependable supply of timber, grazing, and minerals to sustain local industry and communities. (Individual, KOOSKIA, ID - 5383)

Social and economic values, along with recreation demand, can and will continue to influence public land management decisions. These values along with the logical application of ecological principles must be considered and clearly portrayed in the draft plan. (Timber Association, LEWISTON, ID - 1921)

Keeping forested watersheds upstream intact and free of the erosion and landslides produced by roads and logging, have economic benefits to the communities downstream. This must be looked at in the new forest plan. (Individual, TUCSON, AZ - 3781)

. . . . As population increases and tourists increasingly come to visit these wildlands, the value of the wildlands will increase in relation to other goods and services. If the supply of wildlands shrinks, as it has over the past decades, the value of remaining wildlands will increase more rapidly. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

The Clearwater forest plan refers to economic stability as "the ability to maintain a viable economic base to insure the existence of historic trades and professions." (Clearwater Forest Plan, 1987). . . . Economic stability was achieved by diversification, not by increasing the timber yield off of national forest lands as expected . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID - 3164)

VIII-16. The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forests should consider the impacts of commercial ventures.

I am very concerned about inroads into these wild and historic places in Idaho for commercial purposes. We have so little wilderness left in our country to cherish, learn from, serve as sanctuaries for diminishing and valuable species of plants and animals and to act as buffers for encroaching exploitation. (Individual, TALLAHASSEE, FL - 724)

Chapter 9 – Data Displayed by Geographic Area

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Data Displayed by Geographic Area

General Comments

IX-1. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests have legitimate reasons for utilizing geographic areas.

We appreciate the utility of identifying geographic areas by using place names or unique features to acquaint the public with the designated areas. We support the proposal to move away from single resource management areas to ecosystem management areas. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

The Tribe commends the forests for adopting a new strategy for defining geographic areas as "a sense of place," rather than the arbitrary and prescriptive management areas that exist in the current forest plans. The Tribe agrees that the current regime created great challenges for integrating management of vegetation, aquatic resources, wildlife, recreation, and other resources. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID - 3867)

We also support the change to focusing on geographic areas (GA) for management, instead of having the same management area scattered throughout the forest. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 39)

Public Land Access Year-round (PLAY) strongly supports this management direction. This is a system that will be much easier for the public to understand and comment on. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

IX-2. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests have selected appropriate geographic area boundaries.

The 27 acres seem to be well broken out with regards to land types, past activity and future plans. This will probably make it easier to pin point future management plans for each acre. (Timber Industry, KOOSKIA, ID – 1922)

The city has no objections to the proposed 27 geographic areas identified in your proposed action plan. (Town/City Government, OROFINO, ID – 3281)

The division of the forests into geographic areas makes general intuitive sense; however, some of the priority issues identified are most efficiently discussed at the forest level. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Seems like a good, landscapes-based organization. (It) makes the forest as a whole more understandable to public-really excellent work on the maps, showing second degree and third degree streams and landmarks. (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN – 12)

IX-3. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should redefine geographic area boundaries.

We are concerned that since the geographic areas delineations are based on social perceptions and are not ecologically based that application of scientifically-based management objectives, standards and guidelines to the geographic areas may weaken the scientific underpinnings of the revised plans. . . . We suggest the Forest Service revisit the 27 geographic areas and consider modifying their delineations to ensure that management applied to the geographic

areas will facilitate recovery of listed fish and wildlife species. (Federal Agency, BOISE, ID – 2083)

The geographic areas need to be bigger to reflect more of a watershed focus. (Individual, TROY, ID – 4383)

A careful analysis of the draft geographic areas, watershed conditions, fisheries status and other pertinent layers may lead to some changes in the draft geographic areas to protect the high quality habitat areas and emphasizes the restoration of the degraded areas. (Preservation/Conservation, EUGENE, OR – 3869)

PILOT KNOB

Where the geographic structure of the document could probably be improved is the roadless tract surrounding Pilot Knob. Chiefly for religious and cultural reasons, Pilot Knob really needs to be considered as an entity to be protected at that. The present geographic unit structure will make doing so fairly difficult. The quality of the cultural values in this spot doesn't allow much room for error. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 25)

AGGREGATE INTO MANAGEMENT UNITS

For general direction, the stratification of geographic areas is adequate. However, the proposed action still fragments larger watershed systems like the Lochsa River, and the North and South Forks of the Clearwater River. This flies in the face of an ecosystem perspective. The plans should combine the geographic areas into larger system management units for assessment and development of integrated management (e.g., cumulative effects). The broad geographic areas should be stratified into smaller management units in order identify/ resolve conflicts. For example, the Lochsa Management Unit would consist of: Lolo Pass, Upper Lochsa, Middle Lochsa, Lowell, Coolwater, and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. It is our recommendation that the Forest Service develop additional management units that maintain a consistent ecosystem concept and addresses overlapping issues to avoid conflicting management decisions across the watershed. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

SITE-SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

Specifically, the Tribe encourages the forests to redefine the proposed boundaries of the 27 geographic areas into the following system-wide geographic areas: (1) Lochsa River; (2) Selway River; (3) Middle Fork Clearwater River; (4) South Fork Clearwater River; (5) North Fork Clearwater River; (6) Potlatch River; (7) Palouse River; and (8) Lower Salmon River. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Geographic areas should be larger in area to capture more of an ecosystem approach. We propose six geographic areas in total. They are Potlatch, North Fork Clearwater, Highway 12 Corridor, Selway-Bitterroot Wildlands (including Meadow Creek), South Fork Clearwater, and Salmon River. This larger geographic area concept would focus management on a larger scale that would plan more on a watershed scale. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

SUBDIVIDE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

. . . we recommend that the geographic areas should be subdivided to reflect diverse ecosystems and/or management strategies. For example, we recommend that all existing or planned roadless areas, wilderness areas, wild and scenic areas and other areas that receive special protections be identified as sub-units within geographic areas. This helps separate

and differentiate these unique areas from portions of the geographic areas that will be more actively managed . . . . (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

IX-4. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should reduce the number of geographic areas.

Need to reduce the number of areas. Site specific leads to the responsibility of locking acreage up. The administrative areas (ranger districts) have been reduce and combined, now you are increasing geographic areas. That increases management and travel time doesn't make sense. (Timber Industry, POST FALLS, ID – 14)

IX-5. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should state the rationale for geographic area boundaries.

. . . you must distinguish two adjacent geographic areas. In other words, you must determine and describe in the plan the rationale that was used to draw the geographic area boundary. I would strongly recommend that you add this information to the general location and description section. . . . you could use sub-headers that say: A) rationale behind the choice of geographic area location and size and B) distinguishing characteristics between (list all adjacent geographic areas). You need to have some short statements describing why a geographic area has been identified by the Forest Service: 1) in this particular location, 2) with this particular size and 3) with these particular boundaries. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

It seems appropriate than that the boundaries of geographic areas would be determined in a manner that most effectively facilitates the U.S. Forest Service in meeting these goals. However, it is not clear that the criteria used to select the geographic areas was based on moving the forests as a whole to this desired future condition. They appear to have been based on boundaries that are familiar and facilitate easier management of the forest. We recommend that the U.S. Forest Service clarify this process and explain how the geographic areas described in the proposed action will be effective tools to facilitate moving towards overall forest-wide vision and goals. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA -7081)

The logic for geographic area boundaries is not articulated. In some cases you put apples with oranges. We have a concern that watersheds will be chopped up and put into different geographic areas. This piecemeal approach to watersheds could lead to not evaluating cumulative effects when considering management of each geographic area. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

IX-6. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should include consistent direction for geographic areas that transcends forest boundaries.

Just as The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests currently have different approaches to access management that must be addressed, the same divisions should not be allowed to exist across geographic areas. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-7. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should include more information regarding each geographic area.

My concern is the lack of information furnished for each geographic area. . . . (There is) no way of knowing what areas are being managed for timber, recreation and etc. (There is) no estimate of sustained yield on each area. (There is) no estimate of allowable cut. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

Under each geographic area you describe the following in text to augment the map: 1) general location and description; 2) unique features; 3) proposed desired future conditions; 4) proposed goals and 5) proposed monitoring and types of monitoring that could occur. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 10)

IX-8. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should clarify the intended purpose for geographic areas.

The geographic areas are confusing in that they are not intended to be allocation-oriented but the document describes them as such. This ought to be corrected. (Individual, TROY, ID – 4383)

The geographic areas should not drive resource allocation. Geographic areas will not likely allow the public to understand management any better than management areas did. You need to delineate management in each geographic area for resource allocation. Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

IX-9. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should modify some direction included for the geographic areas

GENERAL AND MULTIPLE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

We object to certain specific direction in these descriptions, specifically as they relate to the allowance of motors in roadless areas, the promotion of the illegal, dedicated off-road vehicle trail to Fish Lake in the proposed Great Burn Wilderness (proposed by the Forest Service) while changing this wilderness allocation, and the allowance of logging in roadless areas (in contradiction of the three-pronged approach and the elk collaborative). (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

For example, treatment of roadless areas, wild and scenic management, implementation of the Endangered Species Act, etc., should be addressed at the forest level, not at the geographic area scale. Geographic areas should provide more detailed analyses of resources and special concerns that will guide project level decisions. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

. . . . I'm particularly concerned with off-road vehicles in any of these areas [Great Burn, Moose Cayuse, Mallard Meadow, Meadow Creek, Weitas]. In both summer and winter I've encountered such use, and I've found it completely incompatible with hiking and camping. In addition from my reading and direct observations I know that such use over time destroys the natural character and health of these areas through eroding the soil, directly damaging plant life, fragmenting and isolating wildlife populations and hastening the spread of invasive weed species . . . . (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 9826)

These Geographic Areas [Lolo Creek, South Fork Clearwater, Red River, Coolwater, Lowell] provide little to no consideration for road and trail access for OHVs. If any mention of motorized recreation exists it is in a "setting with roads." If this is all they can offer it is totally unacceptable. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID - 3769)

IX-10. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should identify a process for resolving conflicts when projects overlap geographic areas.

The process of resolving conflicts with projects that overlap several geographic areas or have effects that impact adjacent geographic areas should be clearly established. (Federal Agency, SEATTLE, WA -7081)

IX-11. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should preserve the option for timber harvest in all geographic areas.

Please consider the advisability of keeping all designated geographical areas open for the possibility of harvesting timber. Although some of these areas may not be suitable for logging at this time, please consider leaving options open for future timber harvest if new logging methods or equipment become available, if national politics changes in four years, and if for any unseen reasons, logging will become a viable option. If any of these areas are closed to logging, I have serious concerns that opening them back up in the future will be a monumental task. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 1933)

IX-12. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider watersheds when determining cumulative effects.

The forests will need to integrate management in different geographic areas that are drained by a common watershed (e.g. Lochsa River) in order to deal with cumulative effects. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-13. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should retain some management area designations.

Concerned Sportsmen of Idaho recommends retaining land management designations such as C8S lands on the Clearwater National Forest any types 14, 15 and 16 lands on the Nez Perce National Forest throughout the applicable geographic area listed in each forest. (Hunting/Trapping, VIOLA, ID – 3845)

IX-14. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should add unique features to the geographic areas.

The Tribe also understands that for each geographic area, the forests intend to identify unique features. The revised forest plans will prescribe specific management for the unique features, separate from the forest-wide management direction. The Tribe would like to see specific management direction for the following unique features: (1) all wilderness areas; (2) all wild and scenic rivers; (3) all inventoried roadless areas; (4) the Nee Mee Poo Trail; (5) Musselshell Meadows; (6) McComas Meadows: (7) Pilot Knob; (8) Red River Hot Springs; (9) Elk City; (10) the Lochsa River Corridor; (11) the Selway River corridor; (12) checkerboarded lands surrounding the Plum Creek timber company lands; (13) satellite facilities associated with the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery at Newsome Creek and Yoosa Creek; (14) the Southern Nez Perce Trail; and (15) Smoking Place. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

IX-15. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not include management activities that will be used to achieve desired future conditions.

I believe that the desired condition should be stated for each geographic area but I cannot agree with stating which management activities will or will not be allowed to achieve it. This appears to me to dictate a predetermined direction and a severe and extreme bias. (County Government, OROFINO, ID – 5387)

IX-16. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should modify goals for the geographic areas.

The goals in the geographic area section only partially addressed the forest-wide or even geographic area-specific desired future conditions in most cases, and therefore appear to be incomplete, selective lists. Thus, it does not appear that meeting all of the goals in the geographic area sections would help the forest reach desired future conditions. Perhaps the goals in the geographic area were intended to be example of goals for the geographic areas, rather than inclusive lists? . . . Similarly a number of the terrestrial and watershed or stream-related goal statements for various geographic areas appear to us to be unnecessarily limiting; some even contradict broader forest-wide desired future conditions. . . . Are these proposed goals not inclusive but, rather, some priorities the Forest Service has established within the geographic areas? If not, we suggest that it would be sufficient to rely on the forest-wide goals, at least until objectives and standards have been identified later in the process so more specific goal statements can be developed for each geographic area. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

IX-17. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop specific objectives and standards consistent with geographic area goals. Priorities should be set for aquatic restoration.

The proposed goals developed for the specific geographic areas are generally acceptable. Obviously, the forests will need to develop specific objectives and standards to meet these goals within a reasonable timeframe. Given the need for aquatic restoration throughout much of the forest, priorities should be set. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-18. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should review all geographic areas for mining activity.

There are five geographic areas noted as having mining-Palouse, Cedars-Deception, South Fork Clearwater, Red River and Lower Salmon East. Is that all? (It) seems like there are more areas that have mining history, especially along the edge of wilderness on the Nez (Perce Forest). I've suggested restoration/reclamation/rehabilitation for all these areas. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-19. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should describe how direction will affect recreation opportunities in the geographic areas.

The Forest Service must accurately describe how each "broad strategic decision" contained in the revised forest plan will affect recreation opportunities in each geographic area. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

Cedars-Deception Geographic Area

IX-20. The Clearwater Forest should modify the desired future condition for the Cedars-Deception Geographic Area.

(Suggested wording) Areas where mining claims are inactive have been rehabilitated, streams and landscapes restored and roads closed. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-21. The Clearwater Forest has proposed an acceptable desired future condition and goals for the Cedars-Deception Geographic Area.

We are in general agreement with the proposed desired future condition (DFC) and goals described for this geographic area. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-22. The Clearwater Forest should protect fish and wildlife within the Cedars-Deception Geographic Area.

PROTECT WILDLIFE SECURITY AREAS

Wildlife security areas should be identified and protected. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

RESTRICT MOTORIZED RECREATION

. . . preserve wildlife habitat in the area. . . . restrict motorized recreation where needed to protect wildlife. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 38)

CLOSE BLACK CANYON ROAD

. . . close and obliterate the Black Canyon Road (No. 250) to protect aquatic resources. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

LIMIT OVER-SNOW TRAVEL

We can not agree, at this time, with the proposed desired future condition of "over-snow motorized winter travel is allowed throughout the geographic area." Over-snow motorized travel may affect wildlife security and quality of habitat. . . . We would like more opportunity to evaluate the potential impacts and need for some over snow travel restrictions for this geographic area before committing to unrestricted winter travel. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

IX-23. Clearwater Forest should protect old-growth forests within the Cedars-Deception Geographic Area.

Old growth forests should be identified and protected. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IX-24. The Clearwater Forest should classify lands in the Cedars-Deception Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

Lands that meet the factual suitability criteria A, steps 1-7, found in the regional timber suitability policy should be classified as suitable for timber production . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-25. The Clearwater Forest should establish an annual "allowable cut" for the Cedars-Deception Geographic Area.

To meet healthy forest standards there should be an (annual) allowable cut figure in the plan for a guide for future management. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-26. The Clearwater Forest should recognize the recreational use that occurs in the Cedars-Deception Geographic Area.

This is an important geographic area for all types of recreation including hunting. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

FUTURE RECREATION

The plan should include expansion of recreation areas to meet future needs. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-27. The Clearwater Forest should address the appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum categories in the Cedars-Deception Geographic Area.

There is no specific mention, or mention is vague, of the appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum category or categories in the following geographic area's descriptions: . . . Cedars-Deception . . . . (State Association, BOISE, ID – 4894)

IX-28. The Clearwater Forest should allow motorized access in the Cedars-Deception Geographic Area.

As other areas will be set aside for mostly non-motorized access, this area should be designated as a motorized area. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

Having flown over the entire roadless region and observed the activities in Deception, I think it provides an excellent location for extensive motorized use. It's large and provides some loop trails while not impinging on important roadless/non-motorized locations. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 6016)

There should be areas open to motorized use (West North Fork and Cedars Deception are examples), but those should be carefully selected so as to not seriously infringe on the wild and remote character of large portions of the Clearwater. (Individual, ARLEE, MT – 9844)

EXISTING TRAILS SYSTEM

We have cooperatively worked with the Clearwater National Forest in developing this (off-highway vehicle trail) system. This trail system should remain available for off-highway vehicle (use) for the lifetime of the revision. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

This geographic area contains the extremely important Cedars-Deception off-highway vehicle trails system. The revised plan should emphasize recreation management and ensure the Deception off-highway vehicle trail system remains open. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

MOTORIZED ACCESS FOR HUNTING

Access should be adequate to allow bear and cougar hunters access for predator control. Specific routes we want to be open to motorized use include: trail 429 to road 737B; road 5428, otherwise called Rawhide Road; road 720, Birch Ridge; trail 373 from the Cedars to road 74500. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

We recommend if a seasonal closure is necessary, it should only be for the duration of the big-game rifle season. Extending a seasonal closure to cover the archery season would greatly limit the usefulness of this off-highway vehicle trail system. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

MOTORIZED ACCESS FOR SAFETY

It looks like . . . more areas will be closed for ATV usage on the North Fork. The more that is closed and it forces users to funnel on those roads that are open will create more of public safety issues. In the past when we had a lot of motorcycles and ATV's in the 247-250 road area we had more accidents. By keeping roads and trails open like Clark Mountain, this will help keep kids off the major roads and reduce injuries. I know that there is a proposal in the Cedars Area to put in an ATV trail. When this is done it will also help. (County Elected Official, OROFINO, ID - 2096)

WINTER MOTORIZED ACCESS

This area is used by our more extreme riders and has no groomed trails. Some users access it from the Montana side. Current management of winter use is quite satisfactory and we see no need to change it. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-29. The Clearwater Forest should consider one of the effects of motorized access in the Cedars-Deception Geographic Area: the spread of noxious weeds..

. . . roads and motorized users spread noxious weeds. We see plenty of weeds on the Clearwater Forest, but with very few exceptions, the weeds are near roads and trails where motorized use occurs. We witnessed one of the few exceptions as we scrambled down a ridge from Rock Garden to Cayuse Creek. About 1000 feet above the creek, and nowhere near a trail, we encountered a large patch of spotted knapweed. We have no idea where the seeds for that weed patch came from. Undoubtedly it came on the wind from the nearest road or area of motorized "trail" use. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 9822)

IX-30. The Clearwater Forest should maintain the roadless character of roadless lands within the Cedars-Deception Geographic Area.

One of the goals here should be to maintain the roadless character of the roadless lands in the northern and western parts of this area. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 23)

Coolwater Geographic Area

IX-31. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should modify goals for the Coolwater Geographic Area:

MULTIPLE

Goals should be directed towards management for recreation, both motorized and foot, with some timber harvest to meet the healthy forest standards at the lower elevations. All trails and roads should remain in the system. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

COASTAL DISJUNCT SPECIES

(There is) nothing in the goals acknowledging how to manage for coastal disjunct species. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

These geographic areas (including Coolwater) provide little to no consideration for road and trail access for off-highway vehicles. If any mention of motorized recreation exists it is in a "setting with roads." If this is all they can offer it is totally unacceptable. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3769)

IX-32. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should document upward trends for watersheds in the Coolwater Geographic Area.

Document upward trends for degraded watersheds and fish habitats. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-33. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should address elk winter range in the Coolwater Geographic Area.

Elk winter range is probably an important feature. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-34. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not preclude occasional timber harvest in the Coolwater Geographic Area.

We agree timber management will be occasional in this geographic area. However, we feel the option should remain for the long-term. Predictably, need, technology and economics will change in the future. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

TIMBER HARVEST FROM THE EXISTING ROAD SYSTEM

How will timber harvest be used from this road system without serious modification of the road design? (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-35. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should classify lands in the Coolwater Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

The geographic area outside specially designated areas that meet the factual criteria in A, steps 1-7, of the regional suitability policy should be classified as suitable for timber production . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-36. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider providing semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized opportunities in the Coolwater Geographic Area.

The Coolwater Geographic Area is mostly roadless and currently provides quality semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized opportunities. We believe that these opportunities should be carried forward in the revision. (State Government Agency, BOISE, ID – 3868)

COOLWATER AND BIG FOG ROADS

Coolwater and Big Fog Roads: Maintain these access routes as primitive routes. Improvements should be made only to prevent washouts; not to allow speedier access. Continue to prohibit trailers on these roads. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

IX-37. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider providing off-highway vehicle opportunities on primitive roads within the Coolwater Geographic Area.

Our recommendations would be to focus all-terrain vehicle recreation opportunities on the primitive roads within the geographic area. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-38. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should retain the current level of opportunities for snowmobilers in the Coolwater Geographic Area.

This geographic area's use by snowmobilers is relatively light, primarily by a few extreme riders. It is not groomed. Coolwater, however, is still important to the variety of challenges offered in the region. Riding opportunities should be retained at the current level. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-39. The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests should focus non-motorized recreation opportunities in the adjacent Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Recreationists seeking non-motorized opportunities should be directed to the adjacent Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-40. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should maintain the character of roadless areas in the Coolwater Geographic Area.

Maintain available roadless areas as roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-41. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should not consider the Coolwater Geographic Area as having a roadless character.

I disagree with the assumption that the area has a roadless character. Also there is a very good road to Coolwater Lookout, the center of the geographic area. Other roads lead to Round Top and Idaho Point. They provide access to a very scenic overlook of the Selway-Lochsa drainages. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

Elk Creek Geographic Area

IX-42. The Clearwater Forest should modify the desired future condition for the Elk Creek Geographic Area.

ACCESS

Public Land Access Year-round agrees with most of the proposed desired future conditions except we note that the agency throughout this proposal interchanges words like “many,” “most,” “some” etc., when speaking of the status of roads and trails. The Elk Creek Geographic Area states that “some” trails are open to off-highway vehicles and “some” native surface roads will be closed or restricted. While we understand the specific route designation is not (achieved through) forest plan objectives, we are afraid to endorse anything this vague. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

FISH

Our desired condition would be for cutthroat trout and bull trout to be as abundant as the habitat carrying capacity allows below Elk Creek Falls, not merely present in small numbers. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

The fish species listed in desired future conditions should include kokanee in the area below Elk Creek Falls. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

GRAZING

Another desired future condition for livestock is described here: "Domestic livestock grazing is dispersed and readily apparent.” Dispersal may be desirable to minimize habitat impacts, but we don't agree that grazing should be “readily apparent.” (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

Domestic grazing is being phased out of the municipal watershed area, and should be complete by 2006, so that needn’t be mentioned. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

Eliminate cattle grazing in the municipal watershed. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Through the revision process the Tribe encourages the forests to reduce grazing impacts in the Palouse River, Potlatch River, and Elk Creek. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

RESTORATION

This geographic area may also need the language to restore forest cover on lands that had been cut-over when privately owned. This might well be cedar, rather than white pine. Please check with ecologists. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-43. The Clearwater Forest should modify goals for the Elk Creek Geographic Area.

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

Mention is made of proposed off-highway vehicle restrictions but none is made of pursuing construction of a legitimate off-highway vehicle trail system. A future goal should be construction of the Palouse all-terrain vehicle trail system. Many local citizens put their own

time and effort into planning this system. Why only mention the added-on aspect of restricting access? (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

GRAZING

"Reduce cattle grazing in the municipal watershed" states an action. I hope reducing cattle grazing it is not your primary goal. What is the goal? To reduce cattle grazing or to protect the water? State the goal not the conclusion. (County Government, OROFINO, ID – 5387)

IX-44. The Clearwater Forest should display recreation areas and timber growing sites in the Elk Creek Geographic Area.

Recreational opportunities and timber growing areas should be shown. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-45. The Clearwater Forest should modify the uses and activities table for the Elk Creek Geographic Area.

The uses and activities table would not allow wildland fire use. . . . I don't see this as a major utility corridor. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-46. The Clearwater Forest should develop specific direction regarding management activities in the Elk River municipal watershed.

There should be geographic area-specified direction related to other activities in the municipal watershed portion of the drainage (or in forest-wide direction for municipal watersheds). (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-47. The Clearwater Forest should develop a guideline to prohibit winter logging in winter recreation areas.

We request a timber management guideline that would prohibit winter logging along the ski trail roads. This would minimize potential conflicts between timber operations and the recreating public. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-48. The Clearwater Forest should ensure protection of resources in the Elk Creek Geographic Area.

The Wilderness Society supports the management direction to protect wintering big-game from motorized recreation and provide security habitat for wildlife species. Old growth forests should be identified and protected in the heavily logged areas. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IX-49. The Clearwater Forest should consider using timber harvest to treat vegetation in the Elk Creek Geographic Area.

Existing silvicultural investments need to be maintained. All wildfires should be controlled. There should be provisions for mechanical treatment in the Elk River municipal watershed as the habitat type is not conducive to prescribed fire. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-50. The Clearwater Forest should classify lands in the Elk Creek Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

The majority of the geographic area should be classified as suitable for timber production. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-51. The Clearwater Forest should modify allotment management plans in the Elk Creek Geographic Area.

Allotment management plans need to provide food and cover for wildlife and protect bank stability. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-52. The Clearwater Forest should emphasize recreation in the Elk Creek Geographic Area.

This geographic area is an extremely popular off-highway vehicle destination. Blue Ribbon Coalition supports a recreation emphasis in this area. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

ACCESS TO MINING AREAS

. . . it is stated as a desired condition that "Areas where mining claims are inactive have been rehabilitated, streams and landscapes restored, and roads closed." Many mining areas are of unique interest to the public, especially routes created as mine access routes. You leave no room for recreational access by declaring that road closure is an almost certainty. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

LAW ENFORCEMENT

We would urge language be inserted to step up enforcement efforts and staff in problem areas and at problem times, especially since this area is near population centers and gets very popular on certain weekends. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

PARKING FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED

You propose to provide quality recreational experiences at key sites such as Elk Creek Falls recreational area. . . . The elderly and the disabled can not get to the viewing areas. There has been a proposal to accommodate these two groups by creating a parking area at the original parking area and rebuilding the trails to accommodate wheel chairs. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 138)

WINTER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

This is another very important area for snowmobiling and has many groomed trails. While there is some cross-country skiing there, we have experienced little if any conflict between the two recreation sectors. The current management program seems to be working well. We respect the current closures, but they must be properly posted. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-53. The Clearwater Forest should address the appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum category in the Elk Creek Geographic Area.

There is no specific mention, or mention is vague, of the appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum category or categories in the following Geographic Areas descriptions: . . . Elk Creek . . . . (State Association, BOISE, ID – 4894)

Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness

IX-54. The Nez Perce Forest should control weeds in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

The Forest Service should continue to make controlling invasive weeds in the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness a management priority. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IX-55. The Nez Perce Forest should address non-native species in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

. . . (The Forest Service) needs to address opportunities for reduction of non-native brook trout where they conflict with maintenance of native aquatic species including frogs. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-56. The Nez Perce Forest should review fire management policy in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

The role of fire has already been restored. Nearly each year, fire is allowed to burn until it is not containable and over-runs its boundary, costing millions to contain. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-57. The Nez Perce Forest should allow wildfires to burn in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness

Federally-designated wilderness areas should require very little human intervention, as long as wildfire is allowed to run its course. (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN – 12)

IX-58. The Nez Perce Forest should recommend streams in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Recommend Baragamin Creek for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Gospel-Hump Wilderness

IX-59. The Nez Perce Forest should correct errors in the proposed action.

(There is) no limestone geology. This is the second time this error has been pointed out. Isn't Square Mountain a research natural area as well as a scenic lookout? (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-60. The Nez Perce Forest should tie forest plan direction directly to existing management plans for the Gospel-Hump Wilderness.

The revision should directly tie into these (wilderness management) plans. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-61. The Nez Perce Forest should honor commitments in the Gospel-Hump wilderness management plan.

The Gospel-Hump plan promised several important items including a fisheries management plan, removal of equipment at the head of Williams Creek, a cultural resource inventory, outfitter plans, and identification of areas to be managed without trails. Have all of these been completed? (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

IX-62. The Nez Perce Forest should modify the Gospel-Hump Wilderness management plan so it is consistent with the Wilderness Act.

Some of the direction in the plan, such as a summit register box on the top of Buffalo Hump, conflict with the Wilderness Act. Also, the question of vehicle use in the wilderness at Wind River Meadows must be solved immediately! This plan needs to be updated and made consistent with the law. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

IX-63. The Nez Perce Forest should develop a plan to control noxious weeds in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness.

The Forest Service should prepare a comprehensive, wilderness-wide exotic weed control management plan and environmental impact statement for the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IX-64. The Nez Perce Forest should eliminate grazing in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness.

Eliminate livestock grazing in the wilderness areas. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Additionally, the Tribe urges the forests to eliminate livestock grazing in the anadromous tributaries to Lolo Creek, Lochsa River, Salmon River, and in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness Area. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

IX-65. The Nez Perce Forest should stop motorized uses in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness.

The agency should step up its efforts to stop motorized incursions into the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IX-66. The Nez Perce Forest should provide better access to the Buffalo Hump area.

We should be planning to accommodate the majority of forest visitors, not just the minority. What is needed is better access to Buffalo Hump so that the general public can enjoy the spectacular scenery of this area. It would be more beneficial to the public if it had national park status. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-67. The Nez Perce Forest should recommend streams in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Recommend Johns, Lake and Slate Creeks and segments of the Salmon River for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Great Burn Geographic Area

IX-68. The Clearwater Forest should modify the desired future condition for the Great Burn Geographic Area.

. . . provides primitive recreation opportunities in summer. This area provides mostly primitive and semi-primitive recreation experience with the exception of allowing the continued historical use of snowmobiles. Access is mainly from existing roads and trails. Trail heads provide for high quality hiking, camping, hunting and fishing in summer and fall and unique motorized recreation in the winter. Visitors can experience primitive and semi-primitive recreation and a high degree of solitude. There is virtually no use in the winter other than snowmobilers except possibly relatively near major access points. (The geographic area) provides primitive recreation opportunities in the summer and semi-primitive motorized opportunities in the winter. Access for all is off existing road system and through trails as well as dispersed recreation along trails, along ridgelines at higher elevations. An "outstandingly remarkable" value is inappropriate terminology. Primitive and semi-primitive resources support motorized recreation use in the winter and moderate fishery values and hunting values in summer and fall in part because of coordinated management and communication between adjacent national forests. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 27)

IX-69. The Clearwater Forest should modify goals for the Great Burn Geographic Area.

. . . provide primitive and semi-primitive recreational experience in summer, and in winter allow dispersed motorized use along corridor established along boundary common to other national forest. Delete statement about motorized recreation experience especially to motorbikes. . . . Roadless character and resources are preserved. Roadless character and limited motorized access provide well-distributed security for wildlife. Wintertime motorized access is appropriate. Management as "defacto" wilderness is inappropriate. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 27)

Regarding the goal of "provide a motorized experience along Fish Lake off-highway vehicle trail" . . . . Fish Lake is badly trashed due to motorized access, and this is a blight on an otherwise outstanding area with outstanding wilderness values. One goal should be rehabilitation of Fish Lake and more restrictions to eliminate the abuse this area has seen. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 38)

IX-70. The Clearwater Forest should coordinate with the Lolo Forest to ensure consistent management of this area.

As the Great Burn straddles Idaho and Montana, thus the Clearwater and Lolo National Forests, I hope they are being consistent in their forestry plans between them. (Individual, HAMILTON, MT – 1132)

As a former resident of the state of Idaho, I feel very personally about this beautiful place that lies on the Montana/Idaho border and am very gratified to hear that you are recommending it as wilderness and non-motorized, consistent with the management standards of the Lolo National Forest. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 3880)

How wonderful it would be if you could cooperate with the Lolo National Forest to assure consistency in your forest plans for the Great Burn – Is this possible? (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 50)

Does the Clearwater consider the regional perspective of its decisions? Does the Clearwater revised plan strongly connect the wilderness characteristics of the Idaho side of the Great Burn with the need to manage the wilderness characteristics of all of the roadless areas contributing to the integrity of the Great Burn? A decision that follows your current wilderness recommendation would be important in this regard. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 1133)

IX-71. The Clearwater National Forest should accommodate a variety of uses in the Great Burn Geographic Area.

Because one individual or group objects to another's activities, there is no reason to halt the actions of the majority on the basis of a few complaints. There will always be the selfish individual. (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT – 3890)

If one-half of us value roadless, and one-half of us value roaded access – that is what we had in 1990 before wild, back country trails were improved - and motorized access invasion began. So I would recommend limiting motorized use to roads only - and giving us one-half of a wild forest. I would close Fish Creek Trail, Kelly Creek Trail, Weitas Creek Trail and Windy Bill Ridge (from 12 Mile Saddle to North Fork at 4th of July Pack Bridge and Cook Mountain, to bikes. Old historical use only - foot and horse. (Individual, WEIPPE, ID - 1121)

IN THE STATE LINE AREA

With increased recreational-use demands by the public for meaningful dispersed motorized recreation opportunities during winter months along the state line, a corridor is capable of addressing these needs and is a suitable spatial orientation occupying less than 5% of the area proposed for congressionally designated wilderness within the Great Burn area. With the lack of sufficient support to establish congressionally designated wilderness, it is appropriate to acknowledge and adapt other uses rather than managing as "defacto wilderness." (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 27)

I desire to see all recreational users accommodated in the state line area, not just a preferred type. We all must learn to get along. (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT – 3890)

IX-72. The Clearwater Forest should allow motorized access in the Great Burn Geographic Area.

GENERAL

Once again, Public Land Access Year-round opposes closing of existing motorized access routes in proposed wilderness areas. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

We have enough non-motorized areas for people who don't like to see or hear motorcycles. In fact, there are more miles of single-track trails closed to motorized use on the Clearwater National Forest and Nez Perce National Forest than there are open trails. I would like to see all the trails which are currently open to motorized access remain open. This would include the trails in the Great Burn and Cayuse Creek. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4394)

Motorized recreation has been an active party in working with the Forest Service to promote healthy landscapes and watersheds, especially in the Weitas and Great Burn areas. If more wilderness is created and motorized routes are reduced our efforts and lifestyles will be destroyed. (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 1923)

SNOWMOBILE USE

Motorized access should stay the same in this area. I have snowmobiled here since 1985 and motorcycled here since 1976 with not one user conflict. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 37)

We need to keep what motorized access we have here. Snowmobiling for example, never leaves a trace of human presence. User conflicts here would have to be made up. I have never seen another user group here in the winter I have never had any kind of a conflict in summer either. (Individual, LEWISTON, ID – 36)

The recommended Great Burn Wilderness is inaccessible for all but the hardiest of non-motorized winter recreationists. Past snowmobile use has not negatively affected the area's wilderness characteristics to the point that both the Forest Service and environmental groups have not recommended the area for wilderness. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

Idaho's last successful wilderness bill was 24 years ago with the Central Idaho Wilderness Act. There is no guarantee that Congress will act on this area within the next 24 years. As long as snowmobile use is not affecting the physical characteristics of the recommended wilderness, there shouldn't be a need to close the area to snowmobile use. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

Winter snowmobile use should be separate from motorbike or all-terrain vehicle use. (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT – 3763)

SITE-SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

There are some existing routes we would like to preserve, especially for motorized access, including: trail 478 Pollock Ridge and 429, trail 567 from Kelly Creek Work Center to South Kelly Creek, trail 565 from 567 at Hanson Meadows to Toboggan Ridge Road 581 and trail 513 from 567 to Blacklead. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

The area off of Hoodoo Pass and Steep Lakes should remain available to snowmobile use. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

The Hoodoo Pass area should be left open for limited motorized winter use only or management area 2. Stateline Trail 738 to Goose Creek and Goose Lake and the upper end of Slate Creek and Short Creek and the Steep Lakes area should be left open for limited winter use only or management area 2. (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT – 127)

Areas preferred by snowmobile groups are the Stateline Trail 738 to Goose Lake and the Steep Lake area. Leaving the Kid Lake area (accessed from Surveyer side, MT.) open for snowmobiling will also keep good dispersal amongst snowmobile groups. If closures continue, impacts to other areas will increase and cause conflicts. (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT – 3891)

We request that no improvements be made on Toboggan Ridge road. Although we would like to see Toboggan Ridge road closed, in lieu of this, we see the best alternative is keeping this road in a primitive state where motorized access is provided but does not appear to detract from the wild and remote character of the area which it traverses. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 3841)

ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF MOTORIZED USES

People travel from all over the northwest and Canada to snowmobile this area. These people contribute greatly to the local and state economies, spending money on lodging, gas and food. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 7090)

This area provides excellent opportunities for back country snowmobiling. A lot of people help the local economy by buying gas and food in the local states and stay in the local hotels. (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT – 3773)

IX-73. The Clearwater Forest should require motor vehicles to stay on designated roads in the Great Burn Geographic Area.

Protection should include a forest-wide policy of keeping all motorized vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles, on established roads. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 9836)

IX-74. The Clearwater Forest should prohibit motorized use in the Great Burn Geographic Area.

I've walked in the Great Burn area for years and am increasingly alarmed at the presence of motorized recreational vehicles where they don't belong. I'm concerned about their negative effects on the country including compacted snow, lean-season harassment of wild animals, and oil stains. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 3883)

It should be managed and kept as a non-motorized area in keeping with the Lolo National Forest plan. (Individual, MISSIOULA, MT – 9836)

Please keep motor vehicles off forest trails. This takes active management and enforcement, which costs money and pisses off certain riders of snowmobiles . . . . placing you in a difficult position. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 5431)

Machines need to be kept on the roads and no more roads need to be constructed in the Great Burn. I understand that not all outdoor enthusiasts engage in the same pursuits and that there are people who love to use machines in the woods. Aren't there areas for them to use (Cedars-Deception and West North Fork)? (Individual, FRENCHTOWN, MT – 4489)

I also heartily applaud your recommendation that the Great Burn remain non-motorized as it is critical to maintaining the wilderness character. Furthermore, naming it non-motorized does not create expectations on behalf of motorized recreationists that some day the Great Burn will be open for such use. In my opinion increasing motorized use in inappropriate wild areas presents the most serious threat to wild land. . . . the impacts are on vegetation, wildlife, water quality, and the quietness, somewhere in this busy world, that we need. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT - 6016)

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

In both summer and winter, I've encountered such use (off-highway vehicles), and I've found it completely incompatible with hiking and camping. In addition, from my reading and direct observations, I know that such use, over time, destroys the natural character and health of these areas through eroding the soil, directly damaging plant life, fragmenting and isolating wildlife populations, and hastening the spread of invasive weed species. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 4386)

All - terrain vehicles are relatively new historically and now is the time to control their use. Wilderness is no place for them. Of greatest importance is to leave roadless areas roadless within the Burn and to punish those who, with their all-terrain vehicles, punch in new trails where ever they choose. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 3880)

PROTECT WATER QUALITY

It is very important to keep the upper part of Kelly Creek pristine and non-motorized, so that the wonderful fishery below will continue . . . . (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 1139)

REDUCE THE SPREAD OF WEEDS

Any trails that become heavily traveled by motorized vehicles and mountain bikes experience ever increasing encroachment of knapweed and leafy spurge and other weeds. (Individual, CLINTON, MT – 9839)

IX-75. The Clearwater Forest should not prohibit motorized and mechanized use in recommended wilderness.

Blue Ribbon Coalition opposes the proposed action's intent to ban motorized and mechanized recreation within recommended wilderness. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

TO COMPLY WITH LEGISLATION

In establishing Wilderness Study Areas in Montana (Public Law 95-150) Congress made it clear that "The use of off-road vehicles, while generally prohibited in designated wilderness areas, is entirely appropriate in Wilderness Study Areas." In explaining this language Senator Max Baucus said, "This language was included specifically to allow snowmobile use, not just through the study period but also during the interim period between the time when the Forest Service submits its recommendations and Congress acts upon them." Clearly Congress did not have closures such as that you have imposed on the Great Burn in mind when they passed the Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1977. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-76. The Clearwater Forest should change the management proposal for the Fish Lake Trail.

CLOSE THE FISH LAKE TRAIL TO MOTORIZED USE

There was never any National Environmental Policy Act analysis to allocate this area (Fish Lake Trail) to a dedicated off-road vehicle trail. In fact, it was dedicated to recommended wilderness in the forest plan. The recommendation to now leave out this area (from wilderness recommendation) is despicable and shows complete contempt for the public, our public laws and processes. In effect, the agency changed the allocation of this area without going through the required public involvement. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

The management proposal for the Fish Lake Trail in a proposed wilderness area is not consistent with closing agency-proposed wilderness to motors. We support proposed wilderness areas from the 1987 forest plan and the 1993 settlement agreement to be included in the revision. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 23)

Due to the negative impacts on aquatic habitat, prohibit off-highway vehicle (motorized) use in the Fish Lake corridor. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Allowing motorized access into Fish Lake does not make sense from a management perspective. It would make it virtually impossible to monitor illegal motorized activity in the rest of the Great Burn. This is particularly true when one weighs the fact that this area is essential to the Great Burn as a whole because it provides connectivity and stops motorized

access to the very heart of the wilderness . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

REHABILITATE THE FISH LAKE TRAIL

Fish Lake should be included in the proposed Great Burn Wilderness (and indeed some maps show it as being within wilderness) and restored as much as possible to its former pristine condition. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 3880)

Many of the management motorized conflicts originate from the "cherry stem" Fish Lake corridor that was created by the Forest Service failing to obliterate a road built for suppressing a wildfire long ago. . . . This Fish Lake corridor must be restored to roadless designation to make future management of the area compatible with the surrounding lands and reduce resource damage. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 1133)

This (motorized use on the Fish Lake Trail) must be changed in the final plan, the trail improvements and campground improvements at the lake removed, and the area closed to motor vehicles. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

IX-77. The Clearwater Forest should allow motorized use on the Fish Lake Trail.

It is essential that the Fish Lake off-highway vehicle corridor remain open to all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-78. The Clearwater Forest should keep the Great Burn Geographic Area roadless.

We met other families (on our visit to the Great Burn area) using the roads and enjoying their motorhomes and all-terrain vehicles. It seemed to me that there are ample opportunities for motorized recreational use in the vast areas where roads already exist. Please keep the roadless areas roadless. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 2091)

Hi, I'm Paul. I am age 11 from Missoula, Montana. I really think the Great Burn should remain roadless because if there are motorcycles and stuff it would make too much pollution. I really enjoy hiking and fishing in the Great Burn. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 2089)

Maintain Kelly Creek as roadless, to the end of the future Great Burn Wilderness. (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN – 12)

IX-79. The Clearwater Forest should allow a wider range of uses in the Great Burn roadless area.

The inventoried roadless areas need to be modified to accept a wider range of human uses since clearly-sufficient support for congressionally designated wilderness has not been present. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 27)

IX-80. The Clearwater Forest should recommend streams in the Great Burn Geographic Area for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Recommend Kelly and Cayuse Creeks for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Accelerate the process. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-81. The Clearwater Forest should recommend lands within the Great Burn Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

The Great Burn proposed wilderness, including the Moose and Cayuse areas and the upper Lochsa drainage are a national treasure and deserve to be protected for their ecological diversity as well as their cultural and historic value. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 10855)

Specific recommendations for wilderness include the Great Burn area. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Our comment on the proposed designation of the Great Burn area as wilderness. . . . The time is now to preserve the Great Burn area. We feel so fortunate to live close to this easily accessible wild place. Very soon this will be a magnet for many to escape to a large place of solitude. (Individual, HUSON, MT – 7089)

I support wilderness designation for the Great Burn. I support this because I want to hike in places that are unspoiled by roads, logging, mining and off-road vehicles. When I can no longer hike these places, I can continue to take great comfort knowing they remain unspoiled and suitable habitat for wildlife. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 1146)

Thank you so very much for the recommendation that the Great Burn be proposed as wilderness! I'm grateful that you've come right out and said that these peaks and valleys should remain forever like they are now, along with the Lolo National Forest. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 6016)

IX-82. The Clearwater Forest should not recommend lands in the Great Burn Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

The Great Burn should not be proposed wilderness by our local Forest Service. Only Congress can make wilderness and they can see that public opinion does not favor it . . . . (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 37)

This geographic area should not be proposed wilderness. The Forest Service should be able to see by election results that the public does not favor wilderness. We need motorized access to this beautiful area so we can continue to enjoy it like we have for so many years. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 40)

The Great Burn needs to have some motorized access into it. This would allow human care for a forest problem and also allow humans to see this beautiful area. We need no more wilderness. I have used motorized access in this area for 21 years and have never seen any negative impact. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 1162)

No more wildernesses. National Park status is much more desirable whereby access roads can be built so that we can all enjoy the beauty of the area. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

Blue Ribbon Coalition recommends revising the recommendation for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This geographic area provides unique and important mechanized and motorized recreation within the recommended wilderness. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

IX-83. The Clearwater Forest should change boundaries for recommended wilderness in the Great Burn Geographic Area.

ADDITIONS

Moose-Cayuse, Weitas, Mallard-Meadow and Upper Lochsa deserve inclusion in the proposed wilderness. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 1146)

Have you given thought to include the Fish Lake and the Lake Creek corridor in the proposed Great Burn Wilderness? How about the Moose-Cayuse, Mallard-Meadow, Weitas, and the Upper Lochsa? These areas are some of the last unspoiled wild lands in the lower 48 states . . . . (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 1166)

. . . we request that you address the proposed action boundary errors along the southern portion of the Great Burn. We request that you use the 1987 Clearwater forest plan boundaries for the Great Burn with one exception. . . . we request that the western boundary of the Great Burn be extended to Swamp Ridge. Extending the proposed wilderness boundary to Swamp Ridge provides an essential western boundary for the protection of the heart of the Great Burn. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

We ask that you include Fish Lake and the upper Lake Creek corridor in the proposed Great Burn wilderness. Fish Lake has been included in past wilderness bills and provides critical habitat for westslope cutthroat trout. . . . Continuing to designate the area between the upper Lake Creek corridor and Kelly Creek as recommended wilderness is essential to the integrity of the area as a whole. To do otherwise essentially leaves the north and south zones isolated from each other with little protected connectivity between them except a narrow strip along the state line primarily in Montana. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

We suggest several boundary adjustments. How has science influenced your decision to omit Fish Lake and the Lake Creek corridor from the proposed Great Burn wilderness? Is Fish Lake ecologically inferior? (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

All the roadless lands within the Great Burn and Moose-Cayuse Geographic Areas should be recommended for . . . a Great Burn Wilderness. Kelly Creek's blue ribbon westslope cutthroat trout fishery is nationally known and deserves the strongest resource protection measures available, which would be wilderness designation. The addition of the Moose-Cayuse Geographic area to the Great Burn would create a much more ecologically-intact and functioning Great Burn wilderness area. Much of the area within this wilderness displays high natural erosion sensitivity, as displayed on the attached map. . . . The Cayuse Creek drainage, headwaters of Kelly Creek, and the Moose Mountain area all display high erosion sensitivity. These areas should be protected permanently from the threat of road building by wilderness designation. Additionally, this area is a stronghold for westslope cutthroat and bull trout (see attached maps). Bull trout in particular are indicators of habitat quality, requiring clean, cold water. . . . To survive, bull trout need safe, protected habitat; the kind of habitat offered by wilderness designation. The Great Burn contains the highest elevations north of the Lochsa River, rising to nearly 8000 feet and dropping to 2700 feet at the lower end of the North Fork Clearwater. The area is important for the connectivity it provides linking the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and St. Joe with roadless areas in Montana. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

Fish Lake and Lake Creek wildlife corridors should be proposed as part of the Great Burn wilderness. (Individual, CHENEY, WA – 4903)

Fish Lake needs to be included in the Great Burn Wilderness proposal, as well as Lake Creek to the existing trailhead. (Individual, STEVENSVILLE, MT – 2087)

Great Burn - 179,000 acres in Idaho on Clearwater National Forest, 98,000 acres in Montana, 277, 000 total acres - can be combined with Moose Mountain, 18,000 acres, to combine wilderness in Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area and Great Burn Geographic Area. A portion of the Weitas Geographic Area in Fourth of July Creek is also included in our proposed Great Burn Wilderness. Historic lands of Nez Perce Indians and of Lewis and Clark; blue ribbon trout stream in Kelly Creek and excellent native fishery elsewhere; elevations run from 3,200 to 7,930 feet; erosive soils sensitive to off-road vehicle abuse. High priority areas are centered in Kelly Creek. The 1987 Great Burn recommended wilderness should be expanded to provide greater ecological protection and greater recreational opportunity. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

EXCLUSIONS

Take these areas out of proposed wilderness: Steep Lake area, Stateline Trail 738, upper end of Slate Creek. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 3850)

Stateline Trail 738 to Goose Lake and Goose Creek and the upper end of Slate Creek and the Short Creek, Steep Creek, Steep Lakes areas should be left open or thrown out of the proposed wilderness area. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 7090)

TO ALLOW SNOWMOBILE USE

I would like the area from Hoodoo Pass down the state line to Fish Lake and surrounding areas open for limited motorized winter use only and left out of any proposed wilderness (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT – 3773)

Area preferred by snowmobile groups are the stateline Trail 738 to Goose Lake and the Steep Lake area. Leaving the Kid Lake area (accessed from Surveyer side, MT.) open for snowmobiling will also keep good dispersal amongst snowmobile groups. If closures continue, impacts to other areas will increase and cause conflicts. (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT - 3891)

Change the proposed wilderness boundaries to allow snowmobile use to continue. This is the forest plan revision. (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT – 3763)

. . . . Closure of any area outside of the designated wilderness to snowmobiling makes no sense. . . . Snowmobilers have been having a lot of fun climbing the big hills near Rhodes Peak, Black Lead Mountain, and in the head of Kelly Creek for twenty years. This use has had no lasting impact on the land. Leave it open! (Individual, OROFINO, ID - 4394)

IX-84. The Clearwater Forest should manage the Steep Lakes Research Natural Area to measure ecosystem change.

Preserve research natural areas by making other resource areas such as fire and recreation aware of the value and rules that apply for keeping these preserves free from human disturbance. Maintain research natural areas for their long-term values to measure ecosystem change. Allow successional changes to take place no matter how much the area may become different from the description in the establishment report. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

Lolo Creek Geographic Area

IX-85. The Clearwater Forest should add the Nez Perce Trail and Bird-Truax Trail as unique features in the Lolo Creek Geographic Area.

Adding the Nez Perce Trail and Bird-Truax Trail as unique features would be a good idea. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 25)

IX-86. The Clearwater Forest should modify the desired future condition for the Lolo Creek Geographic Area.

GRAZING

Additionally, the Tribe urges the forests to eliminate livestock grazing in the anadromous tributaries to Lolo Creek, Lochsa River, Salmon River, and in the Gospel Hump Wilderness Area. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

TIMBER HARVEST

We agree in the proposed desired future condition that vegetation will be managed primarily through timber harvest. Mechanical treatment should be an available option along the Lolo Trail to treat for forest health and public safety. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-87. The Clearwater Forest should modify goals for the Lolo Creek Geographic Area.

HERITAGE RESOURCES

The proposed goal, "conserve heritage and scenic resources within the Lolo Trail Historic Landmark," is certainly praiseworthy, but in need of lots of expansion and detail. One special problem in the Landmark in this area has been firewood cutting. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 25)

RECREATION

The geographic area should look to provide a variety of motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. The geographic area also has portions of the Lolo Trail going through it. The Clearwater National Forest has the opportunity to interpret the Lolo Trail in this area. We recommend that the Clearwater develop some specific recreation goals for the area. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

These geographic areas provide little to no consideration for road and trail access for off-highway vehicles. If any mention of motorized recreation exists it is in a "setting with roads." If this is all they can offer it is totally unacceptable. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3769)

SOIL CONDITION

This area is another one that needs references to restoring soil condition to improve site productivity and water infiltration where extensive logging has compacted and displaced the ash cap. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Mechanical treatment should be an available option along the Lolo Trail to treat for forest health and public safety. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

QUESTION

What does the revision team mean when a proposed goal is to "provide access management for motorized and non-motorized use?" (Motorized Recreation – LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

IX-88. The Clearwater Forest should protect water quality and fish habitat in the Lolo Creek Geographic Area.

Reduce road density through the geographic area. Eliminate livestock grazing along anadromous fish streams to prevent further degradation of water quality and fish habitat. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-89. The Clearwater Forest should protect wildlife security areas in the Lolo Creek Geographic Area.

Wildlife security areas should be identified and protected. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IX-90. The Clearwater Forest should protect old-growth forests in the Lolo Creek Geographic Area.

Old growth forests should be identified and protected. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IX-91. The Clearwater Forest should manage the Lolo Creek Geographic Area for timber production.

(The Lolo Creek Geographic Area) should be managed for timber growth, with emphasis on cedars, our most valuable forest product. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-92. The Clearwater Forest should classify lands in the Lolo Creek Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

The geographic area outside specially designated areas should be classified as suitable for timber production . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-93. The Clearwater Forest should restore and develop lands in the Lolo Creek Geographic Area.

We need to restore these areas and we need to enter some of the roadless in these areas as the '87 plan stated to supply resources to the mills in the area. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

IX-94. The Clearwater Forest should emphasize recreation in the Lolo Creek Geographic Area.

Maintain access road system, promote motorized recreation. (There is) too much emphasis on watershed restoration. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

REPAIR MEX MOUNTAIN

We would like to see the Mex Mountain Work Center repaired and made available in the winter months. Local clubs are willing to repair it in return for its use. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-95. The Clearwater Forest should address the appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum category in the Lolo Creek Geographic Area.

There is no specific mention, or mention is vague, of the appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum category or categories in the following Geographic Areas descriptions: . . Lolo Creek . . . . (State Association, BOISE, ID – 4894)

Lolo Pass Geographic Area

IX-96. The Clearwater Forest should modify the unique features for the Lolo Pass Geographic Area.

The Northwest Passage Scenic Byway is located within the Lolo Pass, Upper Lochsa, Middle Lochsa, Lowell, and Middle Fork Clearwater Forest Plan Geographic Areas. In the Proposed Action none of these Geographic Areas identify the Byway as a unique feature or acknowledge the Byway's presence. (Place Based Group, LEWISTON, ID - 3778)

IX-97. The Clearwater Forest's desired future condition for the Lolo Pass Geographic Area is appropriate.

Great Burn Study Group supports the desired future condition of restoring and maintaining wildlife habitat and connectivity and security. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

The Wilderness Society supports the desired future condition of restoring and maintaining wildlife habitat connectivity and security. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IX-98. The Clearwater Forest should revise goals for the Lolo Pass Geographic Area.

Delete paragraphs 5 through 8 under proposed goals. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 27)

PRESCRIBED FIRE

Expand the use of all renewable resources. Protect timber stands from fire by thinning operations, and not fire. Prescribed fire is non-selective and damages our health and visual qualities, (it has) negative effects on locals and tourists. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

WILDFIRE

Wildfires should be aggressively controlled to protect existing untreated stands, silvicultural investments and private land. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-99. The Clearwater Forest should improve the map of the Lolo Pass Geographic Area.

The map legend at first glance appears to identify a "Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark Proposed Wilderness." We now understand that this is an unfortunate matter of bad spacing in the legend and there is no such proposal. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

CLARIFICATION SOUGHT

The question posed by the map needs to be addressed. Is a Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark in existence or being proposed? If so, what are the management implications? If something like this wasn't being considered or already in place there would be no reason to have it on the map, yet no mention is made of it in the text. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-100. The Clearwater Forest should restore and develop lands in the Lolo Pass Geographic Area.

We need to restore these areas and we need to enter some of the roadless in these areas as the '87 plan stated to supply resources to the mills in the area. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

IX-101. The Clearwater Forest should restore acquired lands in the Lolo Pass Grographic Area.

Include language to restore forest cover to desired species on acquired lands that were cut over in the (previous) ownership. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-102. The Clearwater Forest should allow mechanical treatment of vegetation along the Lolo Trail and Highway 12 in the Lolo Pass Geographic Area.

Mechanical treatment should be an available option along the Lolo Trail and Highway 12 to treat for forest health and public safety. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-103. The Clearwater National Forest should classify lands in the Lolo Pass Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

The geographic area outside specially designated areas should be classified as suitable for timber production . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-104. The Clearwater Forest should consider developing a low-impact road system in the Lolo Pass Geographic Area.

All of these areas have the potential to develop a low impact road system located primarily on ridge-tops. Follow locating system roads with construction of temporary roads that will be obliterated after use. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 2100)

IX-105. The Clearwater Forest should reduce and restore roads in the Lolo Pass Geographic Area.

Reduce road density throughout the geographic area. Crooked Fork, from Brushy Fork to Shotgun Creek, needs road restoration to enhance spring Chinook, bull trout and cutthroat and B-run steelhead habitat. Papoose Creek needs road restoration. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-106. The Clearwater Forest should retain motorized access in the Lolo Pass Geographic Area.

Retain motorized access to Beaver Ridge Lookout. Keep roads 595 and 373 open for public use. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

OPPORTUNITY

. . . forest officials should look at decommissioning some of the roads, and creating motorized or non-motorized trail systems with others. By building short connect sections, some of the area could provide a quality recreation trail opportunity. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-107. The Clearwater Forest should continue current winter management for the Lolo Pass Geographic Area.

This is a high use snowmobile area, shared in the Lolo Pass area with cross-country skiers. Current management seems to be dealing quite effectively with the shared-use issues. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-108. The Clearwater Forest should designate more areas for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the Lolo Pass Geographic Area.

How about more areas that are designated only for cross-country skiing/snowshoeing (i.e. not snowmobiles)? I, and many others, enjoy cross-country skiing at Lolo Pass but cannot truly appreciate the experience since there is the constant whine and the smell of snowmobile exhaust in the whole Lolo Pass area. You can't get away from it. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 5436)

IX-109. The Clearwater Forest should improve direction regarding management of historic trails in the Lolo Pass Geographic Area.

The National Historic Landmark, at least as mapped here, does not fully include all of the historic trails present in this area. The draft version of the two plans will also need to include new and very precise language on the management of this corridor, including management of the historic trails still visible within the corridor (and outside too).
(Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 25)

IX-110. The Clearwater Forest should maintain roadless lands as roadless in the Lolo Pass Geographic Area.

Maintain available roadless areas as roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-111. The Clearwater Forest should re-consider recommended wilderness additions in the Lolo Pass Geographic Area.

"Roadless character and wilderness resources are evident in the Storm Creek area recommended for addition to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness." I have to wonder if this suggests that you have already determined that this will be recommended for wilderness after the review. Has the review been completed and are the conclusions already drawn? If not, then who desires this condition? (County Government, OROFINO, ID – 5387)

Lowell Geographic Area

IX-112. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should modify unique features for the Lowell Geographic Area.

The Northwest Passage Scenic Byway is located within the Lolo Pass, Upper Lochsa, Middle Lochsa, Lowell, and Middle Fork Clearwater Forest Plan Geographic Areas. In the Proposed Action none of these Geographic Areas identify the Byway as a unique feature or acknowledge the Byway's presence. (Place Based Group, LEWISTON, ID - 3778)

IX-113. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure protection of old-growth forests in the Lowell Geographic Area.

Old-growth forests should be identified and protected in this heavily logged area. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IX-114. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider use of timber harvest to manage vegetation in the Lowell Geographic Area.

We agree timber management is a viable tool to manage forest vegetation in the geographic area. We further, agree the off-site ponderosa pine in Bimerick Creek needs conversion to restore timber productivity. Mechanical treatment should be an option available along Highway 12 to treat for forest health and public safety. Of particular concern is the mortality caused by root rot of western red cedar. Currently the disease appears limited to medium-sized trees that have invaded drier sites in the absence of fire or treatment. It is only a matter of time before the disease spreads to larger trees that are a significant component to the visual quality along the highway and Lochsa River. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-115. The Clearwater Forest should classify lands in the Lowell Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

The geographic area outside specially-designated areas that meet the factual criteria in A, steps 1-7, of the regional suitability policy should be classified as suitable for timber production . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-116. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should manage roadless areas as roadless in the Lowell Geographic Area.

Maintain available roadless areas as roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-117. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should restore and develop lands in the Lowell Geographic Area.

We need to restore these areas and we need to enter some of the roadless in these areas as the ‘87 plan stated to supply resources to the mills in the area. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

IX-118. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should restore degraded watersheds in the Lowell Geographic Area.

Document upward trends for degraded watersheds and fish habitats. Reduce road densities throughout the geographic area, especially in Pete King, Canyon, and Deadman Creeks.

Reduce stream crossings. Eliminate livestock grazing along anadromous fish streams to prevent further degradation of water quality and fish habitat. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-119. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure establishment of a fire break in the Lowell Geographic Area.

This area needs some type of fire break, timber harvest along with mechanical brush disposal to eliminate old-growth brush that is no longer good for wildlife forage and is a potential for another 1934 burn. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-120. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should preserve recreation opportunities on trails in the Lowell Geographic Area.

This trail system should be managed for motorized and non-motorized single-track trail use. If the revision considers reducing road densities in the area, all-terrain vehicle opportunities should be looked at before decommissioning the roads. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

These geographic areas provide little to no consideration for road and trail access for off-highway vehicles. If any mention of motorized recreation exists it is in a "setting with roads." If this is all they can offer it is totally unacceptable. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3769)

FOR SNOWMOBILES

The higher elevations of this geographic area are important to snowmobilers, especially folks from Syringa, Kamiah, and Kooskia. . . . Riding opportunities should be retained at the current level. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-121. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should preserve research natural areas in the Lowell Geographic Area.

Preserve research natural areas by making other resource areas such as fire and recreation aware of the value and rules that apply for keeping these preserves free from human disturbance. Maintain research natural areas for their long-term values to measure ecosystem change. Allow successional changes to take place no matter how much the area may become different from the description in the establishment report. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

LOCHSA RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

Do not run an all-terrain vehicle shortcut through the Lochsa Research Natural Area. Do not allow all-terrain vehicles to drive through the southeast part of Lochsa Research Natural Area, because this area is the site of rare orchids. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

Lower Salmon East Geographic Area

IX-122. The Nez Perce Forest should modify the general location and description for the Lower Salmon East Geographic Area.

Allison is another major stream. This is where the limestone is. Past management activities should include extensive grazing. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-123. The Nez Perce Forest should modify the desired future condition for the Lower Salmon River East Geographic Area.

GRAZING

Additionally, the Tribe urges the forests to eliminate livestock grazing in the anadromous tributaries to Lolo Creek, Lochsa River, Salmon River, and in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness Area. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

MINING HISTORY

We agree with most of desired conditions listed. From the statement "adits and dredge tailings along streams indicate past and present mining activities" can we assume that the Forest Service will work to preserve the historic nature of the Florence Basin for public use and not obliterate signs of human activity? This area is unique and important to Idaho history and should remain in view of the general public in its present primitive condition. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

MULTIPLE

Constant low mountain pine beetle and fire risk for lodgepole pine suggests they should be managed as open and always young. This is inappropriate to maintaining suitable historic range of landscape composition or lynx habitat. You should rephrase such as: Mountain pine beetle risk and fire risk for lodgepole pine forests are maintained within historic natural ranges. Desired conditions for native shrub and grassland communities are not mentioned but should read: Grasslands and shrublands support the full range of adapted native species and weeds are contained and controlled. Desired condition does not address updated allotment management plans. Is there no need? (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-124. The Nez Perce Forest should modify goals for the Lower Salmon East Geographic Area.

HISTORIC SITES

Goals should include preservation of historic sites, such as Milner Trail and Road, historic Florence area, mines and ditches. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

RECREATION

The proposed action goals don't cover recreation for this area. With the extensive recreation occurring along the Main Salmon River, Fish Creek, and the Florence Basin, some goals should be established. One potential goal would be to interpret and protect the historical opportunities in the Florence Basin. Another goal could be to provide quality recreation trail opportunities in the GA. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

SNOWMOBILING

The upper elevations of this geographic area are very important snowmobiling areas, especially important to nearby communities for both economic and recreational reasons. Use is heavy and there are several miles of groomed trails. We ask that access remain at the current level as a minimum. Motorized winter recreation in this geographic area should be a featured management emphasis listed as a goal. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

WOLVES

A goal statement should be to de-list wolves. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

MULTIPLE

Proposed goals do not address the important need for road density reduction to restore aquatic habitat, especially in the Florence basin. This should be stated to give people the information they need to comment meaningfully. Restoring the role of fire in the landscape needs more amplification. Where? How? What changes to grazing management are needed under goals? What changes to all-terrain vehicle use patterns are needed under goals? (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-125. The Nez Perce Forest should restore and develop lands in the Lower Salmon East Geographic Area.

Restore these areas and we need to enter some of the roadless in these areas. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

IX-126. The Nez Perce Forest should document upward trends in water quality in the Lower Salmon East Geographic Area.

Document upward trend in water and habitat quality of degraded watersheds. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-127. The Nez Perce National Forest should treat timber stands in the Lower Salmon East Geographic Area.

The southeast quarter has 100-year old lodgepole pine with little current insect activity. It is a priority to get ahead of the bugs and break up uniform stands to prevent widespread insect mortality. The southwest quarter has good large to medium size ponderosa pine, white fir and douglas fir stands that could benefit from treatment to enhance vigor and provide for stand replacement. The northwest quarter is drier with ponderosa pine stands that could benefit from treatment prior to prescribed fire use. The northeast quarter is high site with large old trees that need treatment to salvage mortality, enhance vigor and provide for stand replacement. Existing plantations in this quarter need thinning to enhance vigor and productivity. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

WHILE PRESERVING RECREATIONAL ROUTES

Public Land Access Year-round encourages the Forest Service to use timber harvest as a means to manage resources in this area. We do ask that timber harvest activities preserve recreational routes, as-is. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

IX-128. The Nez Perce Forest should eliminate livestock grazing along anadromous streams in the Lower Salmon East Geographic Area.

Eliminate livestock grazing along anadromous fish streams to prevent further degradation of water quality and fish habitat. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-129. The Nez Perce Forest should address the appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum category in the Lower Salmon East Geographic Area.

There is no specific mention, or mention is vague, of the appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum category or categories in the following Geographic Areas descriptions: . . . Lower Salmon East . . . . (State Association, BOISE, ID – 4894)

IX-130. The Nez Perce Forest should emphasize motorized uses in the Lower Salmon East Geographic Area.

Since so much of the forest is set aside specifically for non-motorized recreation we would like to see the Lower Salmon Geographic Area designated as a primary motorized recreation area; especially the Florence area with its many existing routes. Existing access for over 50" vehicles should remain open. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

ACCOMMODATE COUGAR HUNTERS

If the Forest Service is truly concerned with hunter success then roads and motorized routes should be opened to spring bear and cougar hunters.

SITE-SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

Trail 118 from Chair Point to the junction of 118 and 136 and 336 to road 441 at Nut Point should be reopened to summertime use of over 50" vehicles. While this may not be an "official" road the Forest Service did bulldoze it open many years ago for jeep access and it remains suitable for this use by the public. This makes an excellent loop route from the Florence area: road 221 to Allison Creek up road 263to Chair Point, across this trail to road 441 down to road 221, back to Florence. This is a very unique experience and impossible to replace. Trail 118 from 136 to John Day Mountain should remain open to current motorized use. Telephone Ridge Trail (should remain open). Road 263 to road 278 open to over 50" vehicles. Excellent recreational route. Trail 336 should be open for summertime off-highway vehicle use. Trail 323 (should remain open). The Scott Place Access Road (should remain open). Motorized access to Salmon River breaks (should remain open). Trails/roads in the vicinity of Adams Work Center up to road 444, 444A - open to current use. Trails 387, 322,328, 386 Road 1862 (should remain open). Jungle Point Trail(should remain open). We list these routes to show the importance of this entire geographic area to motorized recreation as well as to highlight the valuable hunting, fishing and overall recreational access we depend on. By no means de we restrict our interest to the mentioned routes. Idaho County RS-2477 routes should be considered for recreational uses. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

We wish to add to or reinforce the presence of the following roads and trails, which we use, and insist, remain open and available to motorized access and be marked as "open" on the ground and on agency maps. Road 930 commonly called the Dennis Parlor Trail, a four (4) mile trail from the 243 road going north east to a point above Dennis Parlor. This trail is an important one to area ranchers for access to grazing. Trails 385, 386 and 320 commonly called the Mill Creek Crossing Trail, a series of trails of approximately 6.0 miles from the Four Corners Rock Pit to Peter Ready Road to Sky Line clear-cut to Mill Creek. This is an

important recreation trail. Peter Ready Road, approximately 15 miles from road 221 at Four Corners to the head of Willow Creek. This is a very important recreational trail. Milner Road, from Road 221 at Fish Creek to Skyline. A favorite recreational ride. Road 88, commonly called Centennial Trail is an important recreational trail with historical significance beginning at the Gospel turnoff of Road 221 and continuing to and through the town of Florence. Trail 118, a loop trail from trail 136 junctions which needs to be upgraded to accommodate all-terrain vehicles. Telephone Ridge Trail, from the 136 junction to John Day Mountain is a good recreational riding trail that should be retained. Should include a loop with trail 082 and ending at 263 road. Road 336, commonly called John Day Creek, approximately three (3) miles from road 441 (Nut Basin Road) to road 9303. This is a road we would like to have reopened to off-highway vehicle travel. Would be a good recreational and historical ride. Trail 323; beginning at road 441A and ending at road 2038. This trail of approximately one (1) mile should be open to off-highway vehicle travel. Trail 163 commonly called Scott Place Access Road, beginning at road 9911 (Scott Saddle) and ending at the 163 trail. Now open and should remain open for various access reasons. Trail 387 connecting to trail 322, this loop near Wild Horse Corral should be open. (Motorized Recreation, WHITE BIRD, ID – 32)

IX-131. The Nez Perce Forest should close the Slate Creek Road in the Lower Salmon East Geographic Area.

The Slate Creek road is problematic, contributing significant sediment into the stream, and should be closed. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

IX-132. The Nez Perce Forest should recommend lands within the Lower Salmon East Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

North Fork Slate Proposed Wilderness - 1850. Slate Creek is important anadromous fish habitat. Steep rim rock characterizes much of this country. It contains historically significant sites. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Little Slate Proposed Wilderness - 1851. This area contains important tributaries to Slate Creek, an important anadromous fish stream. A unique lake in Nut Basin and a research natural area in No Business Creek are important natural features. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

John Day Proposed Wilderness - 1852. John Day has two streams with anadromous fish, John Day and Allison Creeks. Whitebark pines are fairly common. Some of the area has been damaged by off-road vehicle use. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Kelly Mountain Proposed Wilderness - 1857. This area drains into the Salmon east of Riggins. It was studied during Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) II but ignored in the forest plan inventory, probably due to size. However, this steep area likely still contains 5,000 acres of land missed by the flawed Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) II inventory. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

IX-133. The Nez Perce Forest should recommend streams in the Lower Salmon East Geographic Area for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Recommend White Bird Creek and segments of the Salmon River for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers system. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Lower Salmon West Geographic Area

IX-134. The Nez Perce Forest should modify the desired future condition for the Lower Salmon West Geographic Area.

Additionally, the Tribe urges the forests to eliminate livestock grazing in the anadromous tributaries to Lolo Creek, Lochsa River, Salmon River, and in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness Area. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

IX-135. The Nez Perce Forest should modify goals for the Lower Salmon West Geographic Area.

Restoring the role of fire in the landscape needs more amplification. Where? How? What changes to grazing management are needed under goals? What changes to all-terrain vehicle use patterns are needed under goals? Will roadless areas be maintained? (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

Add the following to goals. Recognize that tourism is a major use in this area and that specific areas should be designated and managed exclusively for the use of tourists. The access roads should be within these areas. Rationale: This area is the gateway to the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area and as such is traversed by many tourists and recreationists. The area is currently managed for grazing and logging and, as a result, there is a shortage of camping facilities, picnic tables, sanitary facilities, wildflowers, walking trails and interpretive signs. Our visitors deserve and are entitled better. The trip to the National Recreation Area should be a pleasant, memorable and educational experience which encourages the tourist to stay and spend money in the local communities. (Individual, RIGGINS, ID – 1926)

IX-136. The Nez Perce Forest should control weeds in the Lower Salmon West Geographic Area.

Extra efforts need to be made to control exotic weeds in the geographic area. The grasslands on national forest lands in this area are threatened by extensive weed infestations on adjacent private lands. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IX-137: The Nez Perce Forest should emphasize timber management and recreation in the Lower Salmon West Geographic Area.

(Lower Salmon West Geographic Area) should be managed for recreation and timber. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-138: The Nez Perce Forest should use timber harvest to manage vegetation in the Lower Salmon West Geographic Area.

Timber management is not mentioned as a tool in this geographic area. Although opportunities are somewhat limited, we believe it is viable and should not be overlooked as a tool to assist the goal of restoring the role of fire on this landscape. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-139. The Nez Perce Forest should classify lands in the Lower Salmon West Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

Areas in this geographic area outside specially designated areas that meet the factual criteria in A, steps 1-7, of the regional suitable policy, should be classified as suitable for timber production . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-140. The Nez Perce Forest should eliminate livestock grazing along anadromous fish streams in the Lower Salmon West Geographic Area.

Eliminate livestock grazing along anadromous fish streams to prevent further degradation of water quality and fish habitat. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-141. The Nez Perce Forest should address the appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum category in the Lower Salmon West Geographic Area.

There is no specific mention, or mention is vague, of the appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum category or categories in the following Geographic Areas descriptions: . . . Lower Salmon West . . . . (State Association, BOISE, ID – 4894)

IX-142. The Nez Perce Forest should preserve access within the Lower Salmon West Geographic Area.

Preserve existing access in this geographic area. The Kirkwood Road and Road 1805 should remain open to all off-highway vehicles, including high-clearance, over 50" width vehicles. These routes are important for a primitive driving experience as well as providing access and great views. Very few four-wheel-drive only access routes remain open which makes these routes unique. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID - 4389)

More access is needed for the general public. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

WINTER USE

This geographic area is not a high use area. There is no reason to restrict winter access by the few snowmobilers that might enter the area. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-143. The Nez Perce Forest should make Graves Point Lookout an observation point in the Lower Salmon West Geographic Area.

Graves Point lookout should be a public observation point to overview Hells Canyon. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-144. The Nez Perce Forest should maintain roadless lands as roadless in the Lower Salmon West Geographic Area.

Maintain available roadless areas as roadless, especially Rapid River. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-145. The Nez Perce Forest should recommend lands within the Lower Salmon West Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

Rapid River Wilderness Addition - 1922 (also Payette National Forest). The Rapid River is a wild and scenic river and contains crucial anadromous fish habitat for Chinook salmon. The area is unique in that it escaped fires early in this century. It is a very popular backcountry

area and should be added to the Hells Canyon Wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Salmon Face Wilderness Addition (to Hells Canyon Wilderness) - 1855. This area contains spectacular scenery adjacent to the Hells Canyon Wilderness. It also contains a significant, natural cave which has created recent management controversy. The agency must do a better job protecting this area. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

The Nez Perce Forest should coordinate with the Payette National Forest to add the roadless area of the Rapid River drainage to the Hells Canyon Wilderness. The Rapid River roadless area is an important addition to the Hells Canyon Wilderness area. Providing some lower elevation habitat to the east side of the Seven Devils creating a protected landscape extending from a high of 8,300 feet down to a low of 2,100 feet along the lower end of Rapid River. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

Rapid River - 20,000 acres in Nez Perce Forest, another 35,000 in Payette Forest, watershed for salmon-steelhead, including Rapid River Fish Hatchery; low elevation, dry canyon connection to Hells Canyon Wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

Mallard-Jersey Geographic Area

IX-146. The Nez Perce Forest should modify the general location and description for the Mallard-Jersey Geographic Area.

The wildland urban interface should be limited to discussion around Dixie. There are some private inholdings. Dixie has the same processes and problems as the Florence basin. You may want to add information about maintaining lodgepole pine in a similar way, but with variations for the fire risk near Dixie.

IX-147. The Nez Perce Forest should modify goals for the Mallard Jersey Geographic Area.

The main problem with this geographic area is the conflict between maintenance of scenic and aquatic integrity and the prior commitment to development in the multi-resource development area. This is nowhere addressed. This area will be difficult and environmentally costly to access. It is roadless and will waste our time to attempt to develop in a traditional way. I'd suggest that it go back into the roadless bin and get a real analysis that considers the new information of its aquatic and social significance. It provides an ideal buffer area to use prescribed and natural fire adjacent to the Gospel-Hump. Old forests are not limited to riparian stringers. They were common in mixed conifer also, especially under mixed fire with larch, ponderosa pine and douglas fir. Weeds have spread beyond trails and roads; grassland restoration should be a larger piece of the goals. There is a need for road density reduction in some areas as well as mine site restoration. Will roadless areas be maintained? Will fire use plans be expanded into the roadless areas? How will increasing impacts of all-terrain vehicle use be addressed? (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-148. The Nez Perce Forest should restore and develop lands in the Mallard-Jersey Geographic Area.

Restore these areas and we need to enter some of the roadless in these areas. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

IX-149. The Nez Perce Forest should use timber harvest to manage vegetation in the Mallard-Jersey Geographic Area.

The east half of this geographic area has approximately 80 percent mortality in lodgepole pine stands. Little can be done at this time; however, the site is productive and should be considered for timber production in the long term. The middle of the geographic area is occupied with 150 to 200 year old trees with high volumes per acre on fairly gentle ground. This portion of the geographic area should be treated to prevent mortality, promote vigor and provide for stand replacements. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

This area is in bad need of vegetation treatment to remove the lodgepole pine timber to reduce bug infestation and reduce the chance of catastrophic fire. (Area) needs more timber harvest and less prescribed fire. Area needs firebreaks that could be created by yearly sustainable timber harvest. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-150. The Nez Perce Forest should classify lands in the Mallard-Jersey Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

Areas in this geographic area outside specially designated areas that meet the factual criteria in A, steps 1-7, of the regional suitability policy, should be classified as suitable for timber production . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-151. The Nez Perce Forest should not build roads or log in the Mallard-Jersey Geographic Area.

The places without logging roads and logged areas had a higher diversity of wildlife. The best elk hunting areas were also in unlogged areas (one area was actually a proposed logging site in the 1990's Lone Park was the name of the sale.) The Lone Park area was fantastic! It should definitely be left unroaded and unlogged. (Individual, TUCSON, AZ – 3815)

IX-152. The Nez Perce Forest should eliminate livestock grazing along anadromous streams in the Mallard-Jersey Geographic Area.

Eliminate livestock grazing along anadromous fish streams to prevent further degradation of water quality and fish habitat. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-153. The Clearwater Forest should address the appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum category in the Mallard-Jersey Geographic Area.

There is no specific mention, or mention is vague, of the appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum category or categories in the following Geographic Areas descriptions: . . . Mallard-Jersey. (State Association, BOISE, ID – 4894)

IX-154. The Nez Perce Forest should emphasize snowmobile use in the Mallard-Jersey Geographic Area.

This is an important snowmobile use area with groomed trails, very important to local economies. Snowmobiling should be a featured activity and remain at no less than the present level. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-155. The Nez Perce Forest should maintain roadless lands as roadless in the Mallard-Jersey Geographic Area.

Maintain available roadless areas as roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Preserve as roadless since it is a biological/riverine corridor between Gospel-Hump and Frank Church-River of No Return Wildernesses. (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN – 12)

IX-156. The Nez Perce Forest should recommend lands within the Mallard-Jersey Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

Cove and Mallard Wilderness Addition - 1921 and 1847. This area is the site of the infamous Cove/Mallard timber sales. These sales, which would have decimated two roadless areas totaling 77,000 acres, were canceled recently after intense public pressure. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area

IX-157. The Clearwater Forest should modify the desired future condition for the Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area.

The Fly Hill Road 715 and Rawhide Road 5428 are mentioned but nothing is said to indicate future status. Also trail 373 from the Cedars to road 74500 is an important motorcycle route that is not mentioned. If the primary decisions in forest planning are establishment of allowable uses in geographic areas, page 4 of proposed action, then language needs to be inserted to recognize the desired condition that these routes remain open. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

IX-158. The Clearwater Forest should modify goals for the Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area.

The reliance on fire to reduce fuels seems excessive; natural fire should be controlled except at higher elevations under ideal conditions; use prescribed fire only on sites with low fuel accumulation or after mechanical treatment. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

Cold Springs Peak is a popular all-terrain vehicle destination and forest plan goals and objectives that would result in reduction in off-highway vehicle opportunity should be avoided. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

IX-159. The Clearwater Forest should protect lands in the Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area.

Though already heavily logged and mined, the region still contains some of the most pristine areas in the United States, if not the world. Please take the steps necessary to protect areas such as Kelly Creek and the Mallard-Larkins area. I realize the pressure to open these areas up for further development and resource extraction, but such actions will benefit only a few, while protection will benefit everyone and everything. (Individual, POCATELLO, ID – 4889)

IX-160. The Clearwater Forest should restore aquatic processes in the Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area.

Restore aquatic processes in Skull and Isabella Creeks along with Quartz Creek. Close and obliterate the Black Canyon (#250) and Fly Hill (#715/720) roads to protect aquatic resources. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-161. The Clearwater Forest should preserve the values of the North Fork Clearwater River while allowing access for people.

If I understand the wild and scenic designation right, camping could be restricted along the rivers. If this is true, then I would not be in favor of the Wild and Scenic designation for the area. . . . I would hope that there would be some way to preserve the values of the river without shutting the people out. (Special Use, OROFINO, ID - 3161)

IX-162. The Clearwater Forest should classify lands in the Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

Land outside the Pioneer Area and area recommended for wilderness that meet the factual suitability criteria A, Steps 1-7, found in the regional timber suitability policy, should be

classified as suitable for timber production per rationale in our general comments . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-163. The Clearwater Forest should explore the potential to develop a low-impact road system in the Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area.

All of these areas have the potential to develop a low impact road system located primarily on ridge-tops. Follow locating system roads with construction of temporary roads that will be obliterated after use. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 2100)

IX-164. The Clearwater Forest should control noxious weeds in the Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area.

There needs to be a very vigorous plan to control the noxious weeds before they take over the entire area as they have done in the Selway. (Special Use, OROFINO, ID – 3161)

IX-165. The Clearwater Forest should allow motorized use in the Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area.

We need more areas like the Mallard-Larkin areas were motorized recreation can happen and continue to happen. The activities table needs to be more flexible so snowmobile use can continue so our town doesn't die in the winter time. (Individual, SUPERIOR, MT – 127)

SITE-SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

There is a totem cut out of a snag beyond the cabin that sets on a bald knob. This trail can be fixed to accommodate all-terrain vehicles to this spot with very little volunteer labor and time. There are just two short sections that need changed. The junction off of this trail to Elizabeth Lake can be rebuilt to provide one more Alpine Lake that will allow all-terrain vehicles access and take some of the pressure off of Fish Lake. With very little trail access for all-terrain vehicles, disbursement during the dry months is greatly needed. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 138)

The areas outside of the recommended wilderness should be managed for semi-primitive motorized recreation. Cold Springs Peak is a popular all-terrain vehicle destination. The forest needs to consider reconstructing Trail #176 from Road 5279A to properly accommodate all-terrain vehicle use. The forest should also consider reconstructing trail #169 from Cold Springs Peak down to road #711 for all-terrain vehicle use. This trail reconstruction would allow all-terrain vehicle recreationists to make a loop opportunity and reduce potential up-and-down encounters on trail #176. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

You might consider opening the Canyon Work Center to use by snowmobile organizations. We would maintain it and keep the roofs shoveled. The main boundary roads should be open as an access corridor. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-166. The Clearwater Forest should prohibit motorized and mechanical equipment in the Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area.

Definitely need to have motorized and mechanical equipment prohibited. (Special Use, OROFINO, ID – 3161)

IX-167. The Clearwater Forest should maintain roadless lands as roadless in the Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area.

Maintain the available roadless areas as roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Mallard-Larkins and the Upper St. Joe and other inventoried roadless areas near the Bitterroot Crest are part of the largest complex of unprotected roadless lands in the lower forty-eight states. This is a critical distinction for the Forest Service to acknowledge. Further, these lands serve as a vital linkage area for wildlife moving between the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem, and the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 30)

IX-168. The Clearwater Forest should add to the Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area in the Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area.

Adding to the Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area is a good idea however I'm not in favor of the wilderness. I would be in favor of the wilderness designation for the Mallard-Larkins only if it is the only way to preserve the area. (Special Use, OROFINO, ID - 3161)

IX-169. The Clearwater Forest should recommend streams in Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Recommend the North Fork Clearwater River (all segments) for inclusion to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Accelerate the process. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

(I recommend) . . . Wild and Scenic River status for North Fork Clearwater River. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 137)

IX-170. The Clearwater Forest should recommend lands within the Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

Recommend the Mallard-Larkins area as wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID 1169)

(I recommend) wilderness designation for Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area . . . . (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 137)

Specific recommendations for wilderness include the Mallard-Larkins area. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

Mallard-Larkins Proposed Wilderness - 1300 (also on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests). This spectacular, diverse area of 200,000 plus acres encompasses most of the high country between the St. Joe and North Fork Clearwater Rivers. It also has (it previously had more) crucial low elevation habitat and coastal disjunct. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Meadow Creek/Vanderbilt and Rawhide Proposed Wilderness - 1302 and 1313 (also Idaho Panhandle and Lolo National Forests) This is wild headwaters of both the North Fork proper and the St. Joe Rivers with isolated mountain lakes like Trail, Oregon, and St. Joe Lakes. Closure of unneeded and deteriorating road 5428 was suggested to unite this area with the Rawhide Roadless Area in the Clearwater forest plan appendices (page C-224). Recent land

exchanges have removed the private checkerboard land formerly found in the southern part of this area. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Many areas suitable for wilderness protection were not included, and these areas are detailed below: Mallard-Meadow: The steep breaks from Black Mountain and to the east to the North Fork Clearwater, as well as the eastern parts of this geographic area such as Chamberlain Meadows. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 39)

. . . we support the inclusion of the valley within the area delineated by Isabella Point, Mallard Peak And Black Mountain in recommended wilderness. However for these reasons we urge the inclusion of the steep slopes down to the North Fork Clearwater in the recommended wilderness. Those areas in the eastern part of the area (i.e. Chamberlain Meadows) should also be included in recommended wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 38)

All roadless lands within this geographic area should be recommended for wilderness. Great Burn Study Group requests that the recommended wilderness boundary for Mallard-Meadow be extended east so that the Meadow Creek, Upper North Fork and Rawhide Inventoried Roadless Areas are included. This diversifies the wilderness and offers permanent protection for aquatic species such as westslope cutthroat and bull trout, as well as high quality wildlife habitat. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

All the roadless lands within the Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area should be recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service for a Mallard-Larkins Wilderness. Expanding upon the original forest plan wilderness recommendations to include Elizabeth Mountain, Chamberlain Mountain, and the land east of Hoodoo Pass diversifies this wilderness and offers permanent protection to strongholds for aquatic species like westlope cutthroat and bull trout as well as high quality wildlife habitat. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

Mallard Larkins-220,000 acres in Clearwater; from low elevation to high alpine lands; includes rare coastal-disjunct vegetation; popular hiking, hunting and fishing areas with compatible wilderness recreation opportunities; three lake basins provide recreational opportunities in Pioneer Lakes, Three Lake Basin and Elizabeth Lakes; important western red cedar habitats. High priority areas from conservation assessment centered in the Spud Creek drainage and beyond. Most of the Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area is included in the proposal. The current 1987 recommended wilderness should be expanded for ecological and social values. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

Vanderbilt Hill - 46,000 acres, includes the headwaters of the North Fork Clearwater; proposed wilderness is contained in the Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

IX-171. The Clearwater Forest should not recommend lands for wilderness designation in the Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area.

Public Land Access Year-round is opposed to proposed wilderness designations as stated previously in the general comments section. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

We don't need any more wilderness and restrictions; we need more access so that people can enjoy this beautiful state. Special scenic areas should be classified as parks or recreation areas where roads are allowed for access so that the majority of public can enjoy. Roadless and wilderness discriminate against the young and old. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-172. The Clearwater Forest should modify management direction for the Mallard-Larkins proposed wilderness.

Here we find direction to manage the Mallard-Larkin proposed wilderness as wilderness, prohibiting all access for anything with motors or wheels, providing wilderness opportunities, a wilderness setting and conserving wilderness resources. As we said earlier, the need to protect proposed wilderness from activities or management actions that would compromise its future suitability as wilderness is obvious. However, this goes far beyond that inherent need and essentially makes the Mallard-Larkins wilderness in perpetuity without involving that pesky body, the U.S. Congress. This is something strictly forbidden in the Wilderness Act . . . . (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

Meadow Creek Geographic Area

IX-173. The Nez Perce Forest should modify the desired future condition for the Meadow Creek Geographic Area.

Will winter snowmobiling have no constraints at all? Is there a need to monitor this and modify if unacceptable wildlife or resource damage occurs? It is not clear that road construction is prohibited in West Meadow. Can you make this clearer as in: "West of Meadow Creek timber harvest is used near existing roads." It appears that all-terrain vehicle use is prohibited, but this is never stated. Can you clarify? Hasn't there been extensive resource damage due to all-terrain vehicle use in Upper Meadow Creek? (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-174. The Nez Perce Forest should modify goals for the Meadow Creek Geographic Area.

The geographic area goals mentioned relatively nothing about the outstanding semi-primitive recreation opportunities in the area. The geographic area contains numerous trails that could provide a quality motorized and non-motorized recreational experience. We suggest that one of the goals for the geographic area should be "Provide excellent semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities." (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-175. The Nez Perce Forest should correct the map for the Meadow Creek Geographic Area.

The trails on the map do not appear on the legend or do not match the symbols. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-176. The Nez Perce Forest should protect lands in the Meadow Creek Geographic Area.

. . . concerned about the threat of development in Weitas and Meadow Creeks. Having personally recreated in both of these areas, I urge you to protect them throughout the life of the next forest plan. (Individual, BOISE, ID – 5444)

IX-177. The Nez Perce Forest should restore and develop lands in the Meadow Creek Geographic Area.

Restore these areas and we need to enter some of the roadless in these areas. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

IX-178. The Nez Perce Forest should use timber harvest to manage vegetation in the Meadow Creek Geographic Area.

The west side of Meadow Creek Geographic Area is highly productive with mature to more mature stands of douglas fir, white fir and lodgepole pine. Lodgepole pine stands are ripe for insect attack. The timber management option should extend beyond just "near roads." The size and structure does not lend itself to management by fire. History shows fires in this area burn destructively hot. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-179. The Nez Perce Forest should classify lands in the Meadow Creek Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

The west side of the geographic area meets the factual criteria in A, steps 1-7, of the regional suitability policy and should be classified as suitable for timber production . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

TO REDUCE THE THREAT OF CATASTROPHIC FIRE

The west side of Meadow Creek was scheduled for access and timber management in the 1987 plan. The Slims Fire in 2003 was almost a disaster. Forest conditions continue to decline, and without proper treatment, the Elk City area could be threatened by a catastrophic fire originating in this area at a future date. It is feasible to access and harvest in this area as outlined for Pot Mountain without a negative impact on water resources. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 57)

Much of this are should be managed for timber; a healthy forest would have prevented the devastating fire of 2003. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-180. The Nez Perce Forest should limit road building and logging in the Meadow Creek Geographic Area.

This is arguably the single most important roadless area on either forest, and is surely the most important roadless remnant on the Nez Perce Forest. It appears that the proposed action anticipates no new road construction, and logging only close to the existing, limited road network on the west side. All that is for the good. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 25)

Timber harvest should remain in roaded areas. (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN – 12)

IX-181. The Nez Perce Forest should close the Meadow Creek Trail to motorized and mechanized travel.

The Meadow Creek trail should be closed to motorized and mechanized travel. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

IX-182. The Nez Perce Forest should maintain snowmobile opportunities in the Meadow Creek Geographic Area.

This is a major snowmobiling area with groomed trails. If offers a mix of challenges from beginner to extreme. Snowmobile access is important to economies of several communities. We urge you to keep this area open. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-183. The Nez Perce Forest should preserve historic sites in the Meadow Creek Geographic Area.

Preserve historic sites, such as the Nez Perce Trail that passes through the southern part of this area. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-184. The Nez Perce Forest should maintain roadless lands as roadless in the Meadow Creek Geographic Area.

Maintain available roadless areas as roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-185. The Nez Perce Forest should recommend lands within the Meadow Creek Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

Regarding Meadow Creek, the plan says that we should maintain roadless character east of Meadow Creek as criterion for wilderness consideration. Well, if that is the intent, then declare that area as designated for wilderness. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA – 3283)

Meadow Creek Wilderness Addition - 1845. This huge roadless area, over 200,000 acres, is a real gem. It has huge cedars and fir, mixed with ponderosa and lodgepole pine. Meadow Creek was divided in the inventory though it is one roadless area. This is perhaps the most important anadromous fish habitat on the entire Nez Perce National Forest. There are areas in the East Fork of the American River and Kirks Fork that need to be added. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

We are also sure that the planning team anticipates that of all the areas on the Nez Perce, this one will need the most careful and thoughtful analysis to ascertain its value for wilderness. . . . we hope and expect that at least one alternative will propose a wilderness recommendation for the entire roadless area, and that another would provide a wilderness recommendation for at least the east bank, from Slims Camp to the Magruder Road just west of Granite Springs. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 25)

All the roadless lands within the Meadow Creek Geographic Area should be recommended by the Forest Service for addition to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Meadow Creek is the largest roadless area on the Nez Perce National Forest, and is a stronghold for aquatic species. If these species are to survive in the Clearwater River basin, then such strongholds need permanent protection as wilderness. . . . This crucial drainage with its documented aquatic values on the Nez Perce Forest merits its inclusion in the Selway-Bitterrroot Wilderness (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

Meadow Creek - 185,000 acres in the Meadow Creek Geographic Area, is the critical addition to the Nez Perce wilderness system and should be the primary recommended wilderness inclusion in the revised Nez Perce Forest Plan. Meadow Creek is part of the core Selway River ecosystem, with the largest drainage running north-south providing significant differences from the rest of the drainage - in aspect, and vegetation. Western red cedar habitat is significant in low elevations, with elevations running from over 7,000 feet to less than 3,000 feet. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

IX-186. The Nez Perce Forest should recommend streams in the Meadow Creek Geographic Area for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Recommend Meadow, Bargamin and Running Creeks for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-187. The Nez Perce Forest should not recommend streams in the Meadow Creek Geographic Area for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

We have a sufficient amount of wild and scenic rivers in our system already. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

Middle Fork Clearwater Geographic Area

IX-188. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should modify the unique features for the Middle Fork Clearwater Geographic Area.

The Northwest Passage Scenic Byway is located within the Lolo Pass, Upper Lochsa, Middle Lochsa, Lowell, and Middle Fork Clearwater Forest Plan Geographic Areas. In the Proposed Action none of these Geographic Areas identify the Byway as a unique feature or acknowledge the Byway's presence. (Place Based Group, LEWISTON, ID - 3778)

IX-189. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should modify the desired future condition for the Middle Fork Clearwater Geographic Area.

We agree timber management can play a role in this geographic area to restore forest health and reduce fire risk. The proposed desired future condition limits the role to around Syringa and subdivisions. The need and opportunity is throughout the geographic area. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-190. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should modify the goals for the Middle Fork Clearwater Geographic Area.

Extensive roadless areas but (there is) no mention of how they will be treated. Restoration of watershed processes suggests need for road density and effects reduction. You should probably mention this. The Middle Fork had locally extensive areas of cedar old growth, which should also be restored. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-191. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider restoring and developing lands in the Middle Fork Geographic Area.

We need to restore these areas and we need to enter some of the roadless in these areas as the ‘87 plan stated to supply resources to the mills in the area. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

IX-192. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should document upward trends for watersheds in the Middle Fork Geographic Area.

Document upward trend for degraded watersheds and fish habitats. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-193. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider using timber harvest to manage vegetation in the Middle Fork Clearwater Geographic Area.

Mechanical treatment should be an option available along Highway 12 to treat for forest health and public safety. Of particular concern is the mortality caused by root rot of western red cedar. Currently the disease appears limited to medium sized trees that have invaded dryer sites in the absence of fire or treatment. It is only a matter of time before the disease spreads to larger trees that are a significant component to the visual quality along the highway and Lochsa River. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-194. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should classify lands in the Middle Fork Clearwater Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

The geographic area outside specially designated areas that meet the factual criteria in A, steps 1-7, of the regional suitability policy should be classified as suitable for timber production . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-195. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should emphasize dispersed recreation in the Middle Fork Geographic Area.

We were pleased to see that in the proposed desired future condition that the area would offer roaded and semi-primitive recreation opportunities. The area does have many developed recreation facilities. Dispersed recreation should be emphasized in this area. If the revision calls for reducing road densities in the area, the plan should also have a guideline that would require managers to look at potential trail opportunities. This area is near communities and could help fill the need of local recreation opportunities. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-196. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure management of the Highway 12 corridor as a remote and unique travel way.

Middle Fork Wild and Scenic River Corridor: for pullouts and passing lanes, restrict to the very minimum needed. Follow the geographic shape of this corridor: it is too narrow to permit widening. "Improving" this highway for the convenience of truck traffic by clipping trees whose roots hold the ground between pavement and riverbank is not appealing to forest visitors, is counterproductive for bank stability, and makes this road more dangerous for the majority of users who are not long-distance haulers. As partners with the Idaho Transportation Department in the management of this corridor, uphold the rights and safety of those who use this road to experience it as a remote and unique travel way, not a short-cut to speed across Idaho. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

IX-197. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure retention of existing snowmobile opportunities in the Middle Fork Geographic Area.

This geographic area contains some groomed trails on one end. Most of our use catches the edges. Riding opportunities should be retained at the current level. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-198. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should maintain roadless lands as roadless in the Middle Fork Clearwater Geographic Area.

Maintain available roadless areas as roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-199. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recommend lands within the Middle Fork Clearwater Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

Middle Fork Face Proposed Wilderness - 1842. This area contains steelhead and important winter range. Lawless logging under the salvage rider may have destroyed this area. It may no longer be 5,000 acres in size. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Middle Lochsa Geographic Area

IX-200. The Clearwater Forest should modify the unique features for the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area.

The Northwest Passage Scenic Byway is located within the Lolo Pass, Upper Lochsa, Middle Lochsa, Lowell, and Middle Fork Clearwater Forest Plan Geographic Areas. In the Proposed Action none of these geographic areas identify the Byway as a unique feature or acknowledge the Byway's presence. (Place-Based Group, LEWISTON, ID - 3778)

IX-201. The Clearwater Forest should modify the desired future condition for the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area.

GRAZING

Additionally, the Tribe urges the forests to eliminate livestock grazing in the anadromous tributaries to Lolo Creek, Lochsa River, Salmon River, and in the Wilderness Area. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

PRESCRIBED BURNING

(I request) Less prescribed burning that ruins the visual beauty for visitors traveling Highway 12. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

TIMBER HARVEST

We disagree with the proposed desired future condition that provides for prescribed fire as the primary tool to maintain forest health. Mechanical treatment should be an equal priority especially in the east and west ends of the geographic area. Forest conditions are generally poor. Existing roads provide access. Mechanical treatment should be an option available along the Lolo Trail and Highway 12 to treat for forest health and public safety. Of particular concern is the mortality caused by root rot of western red cedar . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-202. The Clearwater Forest should correct the map for the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area.

The map on page 47 incorrectly identifies the Lochsa River as a Wild and Scenic River. The Lochsa River was designated as a Recreation River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-203. The Clearwater Forest should restore develop roadless lands in the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area.

We need to restore these areas and we need to enter some of the roadless in these areas as the '87 plan stated to supply resources to the mills in the area. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

IX-204. The Clearwater Forest should use timber harvest to manage vegetation in the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area.

. . . the area between Fish Creek and Road 483 is in need of forest health treatment, and can easily be accessed with several ridge top roads initiated from Road 483. This is an area of

high volumes per acre, and high valued species timber mix. Without thinning and significant reduction in fuels, this area could carry a severe resource damaging wildfire. Almost all this area can be treated with conventional harvest systems. (Timber, KAMIAH, ID – 57)

ACCESS

A mid-slope road can be constructed between the 500 Road and Highway 12 east of the Saddle Camp Road. This would provide access to timber stands in rapidly deteriorating condition, for harvest activities as described above for Pot Mountain. In addition, thinning and improving forest health conditions in both these geographical areas, and in Weitas Creek area, above is essential to protect the historic values of the 500 Road from the impact of a catastrophic fire. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 57)

All of these areas have the potential to develop a low impact road system located primarily on ridge-tops. Follow locating system roads with construction of temporary roads that will be obliterated after use. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 2100)

NON-NATIVE PINE

Bimerick Meadows and the surrounding area contain large stands planted with ponderosa pine originating from the Black Hills. This is non-native stock that must be replaced to accomplish the objectives of ecosystem management. These stands can easily be accessed and harvested with conventional systems. Some stands requiring treatment are north of the 483 Road, in the Middle Lochsa Geographical Area. These stands are also in a major wintering area for elk, and conversion of these off-site plantations would greatly benefit elk by providing significantly improved habitat. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 57)

IX-205. The Clearwater Forest should regenerate cedar stands in the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area.

We need to regenerate the cedar stands that occupied this area before the 1934 burn. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-206. The Clearwater Forest should classify lands within in the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

The geographic area outside specially designated areas that meet the factual criteria in A, steps 1-7, of the regional suitability policy should be classified as suitable for timber production . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-207. The Clearwater Forest should allow motorized use in the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area.

HUNGERY AND WILLOW CREEKS

The proposed closures (in Hungery and Willow Creeks) would cut motorized looping opportunities in half. We assume that one of the reasons to close the Hungery and Willow Creek drainages is to protect the Lolo Trail. The entire drainage doesn't have to be closed to protect the Lolo Trail. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

We recommend only closing the Hungery Creek Trail #69 from its intersection with trail #234 down to trail #237. Trail #237 could also be considered for closure. The closure of these two trails would not cut the motorized looping opportunities and still protect the Lolo Trail. The Sherman Creek Trail #203 is a part of the Idaho Centennial Trail and should

remain open to single-track motorized and non-motorized uses. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

SNOWMOBILE USE

We support the proposed action from the standpoint of snowmobile use. Our use is on the Mex Mountain end and the 500 road. We would like to groom that road in the future. Road number 107 connects with the 500 road. We would like to see this road (approximately ten miles) left open. It provides access to the 500 road and is a safety outlet for those traveling the high route. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-208. The Clearwater Forest should limit motorized use in the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area

TWO-WHEELED ONLY IN FISH CREEK

It appears that the Proposed Action anticipates no new road construction in this area, which certainly matches the land capability here. Some, but not very much, of the area is suited for motorized access, but we hope that planners will remember that the motorized use that has been agreed upon for the bottom Fish Creek is strictly two-wheeled. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 255)

NO MOTORIZED IN FISH CREEK

Prohibit semi-primitive motorized recreation in the Fish Creek system because of the premiere steelhead habitat. The uniqueness of this habitat should make it the primary management priority and all threats should be reduced. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

PROHIBIT ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE USE

All-terrain vehicle use in the Lochsa Valley, even if already established, is particularly out-of-sync with Lewis-Clark heritage. It should be prohibited. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA – 3283)

SITE-SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

Motorized access to Leo Lake and Fish Creek - via Fish Creek Trail and old Bimmerick Road open from Highway 12 to Fish Creek from McLendon Butte - should be closed to motorized access . . . . Motorized access can damage the fish population way more than a hiker - who can only steal as much fish as he can eat in a day. (Individual, WEIPPE, ID – 1121)

No new crossings of historic trails by roads or motorized usage should be permitted. Examples include new trail bike access up Fish Creek which is on a portion of the Lewis and Clark Trail and Captain Clark's September 18, 1805 campsite on Fish Creek. (Individual, WEIPPE, ID - 125)

IX-209. The Clearwater Forest should focus non-motorized recreation opportunities in the southern half of the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area.

The Clearwater National Forest should focus non-motorized recreation opportunities in the southern half of the geographic area, across the Lochsa River. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-210. The Clearwater Forest should manage recreation facilities in the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area.

JERRY JOHNSON CAMPGROUND

Jerry Johnson Campground: Please do not ever log a public campground again to "protect the public from hazard trees." Please consider this a dire lesson, a management mistake, and never do this again. Instead, when old grand firs pose a “threat” to public safety, close the campground, let the trees topple - let succession happen! - and relocate the campground. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

LOCHSA HISTORICAL RANGER STATION

Lochsa Historical Station: Continue the excellent program run by Forest Service volunteers, maintain the museum and its collections, and provide facilities for the public that are rustic, simple, practical to maintain, and in keeping with the remote, quiet aspects of this place. Do not replace the Forest Service workers' quarters with modular homes or any type of new facilities that require a lot of maintenance, or that separate crews into individual kitchens and gathering areas. Maintain Lochsa Historical Ranger Station as a practical and simple outpost that is not dependant on generators. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

WILDERNESS GATEWAY CAMPGROUND

Wilderness Gateway Campground: this is an important setting for wilderness education because many wilderness visitors camp or pass through this complex to access the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Search for and hire campground hosts who are dedicated to serving the wilderness public with helpful and effective wilderness messages. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

Outfitter resort permits: There are currently three permits. Do not allow any further resort permits at Wilderness Gateway. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

IX-211. The Clearwater Forest should manage roadless lands as roadless in the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area.

Maintain available roadless areas as roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-212. The Clearwater Forest should recommend streams in the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Recommend Fish and Hungery Creeks for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Fish and Hungery Creeks (should be recommended for) Wild and Scenic Rivers designation. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 137)

IX-213. The Clearwater Forest should recommend lands within the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

Fish and Hungery Creek Proposed Wilderness - 1307 (also called North Lochsa Slope). This area contains the most important steelhead habitat in north central Idaho and crucial wildlands north of Highway 12, the Lochsa River corridor. It also contains the largest unroaded section of the Lewis and Clark Trail. Weir/Post Office Proposed Wilderness - 12308. This wild section of land is remote with no trails. It has unique features like Ashpile

Peak and Weir Creek Hot Springs and is adjacent to Indian Post Office. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

(We support wilderness designation for) the Bighorn Weitas, North Lochsa Slope and Weir Post Office roadless areas. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 39)

The roadless lands within the Fish Creek and Hungery Creek drainages of the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area should be recommended for wilderness designation by the Forest Service. Two major factors justify permanent wilderness protection for this area; the aquatic values and the historic values associated with Fish and Hungery Creeks. . . . It also represents unique and unprotected physical and biological habitats containing the moist, productive sites and mixed cedar forest . . . . Native American use of the area is documented which suggest human occupation and use may extend back to between 7,000 and 9,000 years ago. The Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark is located along the northern boundary of this proposed wilderness as well as along Hungery Creek. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

I recommend wilderness designation from Tick Creek to Lost Creek, for all of the roaded part of the Fish Creek drainage, for Weir Creek, and for all the land south of Highway 12 (particularly land surrounding Jerry Johnson Hot Springs). . . . Wilderness designation along the Lochsa is important, in part, because it will link wildlands in the Weitas and Cayuse Creek country with the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA – 3283)

Lewis-Clark (Fish and Hungery Creeks) 54,000 acres and Weir Creek - 27,000 acres in the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area. Proposed wildernesses could be connected along the Lolo Trail with separation by the Graves Creek - Saddle Camp Road, but we have it as two units. Fish and Hungery Creek are well recognized for historic Lewis and Clark values, as well as salmon-steelhead spawning and rearing streams. Non-motorized recreation status should be maintained. High priority values overlay the entire Fish and Hungery drainages. Weir Creek provides linkage from Great Burn to the Lochsa River and the Selway-Bittrroot Wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

Elk Summit - 39,000 acres and Lochsa Face - 73,000 acres, in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area and Middle Lochsa Geographic Area, is an obvious addition to ecological stronghold and recreational opportunities of the Selway-Bitterroot. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

MANAGE AS RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS

Due to the outstanding aquatic, wildlife, old growth and fisheries values of this area, it should be managed as recommended wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 38)

IX-214. The Clearwater Forest should preserve the Dutch Creek Research Natural Area in the Middle Lochsa Geographic Area.

Dutch Creek Research Natural Area: Preserve research natural areas by making other resource areas such as fire and recreation aware of the value and rules that apply for keeping these preserves free from human disturbance. Maintain research natural areas for their long-term values to measure ecosystem change. Allow successional changes to take place no matter how much the area may become different from the description in the establishment report. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area

IX-215. The Clearwater Forest should revise the desired future condition for the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

The desired future condition that "annual noxious weed chemical spraying occurs along roads to limit spread and infestations" has two flaws in our estimation. First, we view a weed treatment as a means to an end, that being weed control or elimination, not the end in itself. Secondly, we recommend not limiting weed treatments to chemical spraying in the plan, alternative controls may prove more desirable or effective in the future. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

OUTFITTING

. . . Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association recommends that the inaccurate statement "Visitors can experience primitive recreation in the Moose Mountains and a high degree of solitude yearlong because commercial outfitters and motorized winter use are not allowed" be removed. This area has been historically outfitted. Further, the statement insinuates that one cannot experience solitude because of the presence of commercial recreation. (State Association, BOISE, ID – 4894)

Stating that visitors can experience primitive recreation in the Moose Mountains and a high degree of solitude yearlong because commercial outfitters and motorized winter use are not allowed is a biased statement. (Individual, PIERCE, ID – 70)

The language dealing with outfitters in the Moose Mountains is unclear. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 25)

RECREATION

Page 36 . . . should read desired future conditions; provides primitive recreation opportunities in summer. This area provides mostly primitive and semi-primitive recreation experience with the exception allowing the continued historical use of snowmobiles. Access is mainly from existing roads and trails. Trail heads provide for high quality hiking, camping, hunting and fishing in summer and fall and motorized recreation in the winter. Visitors can experience primitive and semi-primitive recreation and a high degree of solitude. There is virtually no use in the winter other than snowmobilers, except relatively near major access points. (The area) Provides primitive recreation opportunities in the summer and semi-primitive motorized opportunities in the winter. Access for all is off existing road systems and through trails as well as dispersed recreation along trails along ridgelines at higher elevations. “Outstandingly remarkable values” is inappropriate terminology. Primitive and semi-primitive resources support motorized recreation use in the winter and moderate fishery values and hunting values in the summer and fall in part because of coordinated management and communication between adjacent national forests. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 27)

IX-216. The Clearwater Forest should modify goals for the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area.

AIRFIELDS

Proposed goals fail to include the importance of keeping the Cayuse landing field open. This is needed for an emergency landing strip as well as for firefighting. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

RECREATION

Proposed goal; to provide primitive and semi-primitive recreational experience in summer and in winter allow dispersed motorized use along corridor established along boundary common to other national forests. A meaningful experience to a motor biker is a single-track trail preferably a loop trail, about 55-65 miles in length of varying degrees of difficulty, conditions and terrain. Roadless character and resources are preserved. Roadless character and limited motorized access provide well distributed security for wildlife. Wintertime motorized access is appropriate. Management as "defacto wilderness" is inappropriate. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 27)

WATER QUALITY

The goal should be to conserve watershed conditions and aquatic habitats throughout the entire area. In fact, we hope that the forest plan adopts a similar goal; to restore, enhance and protect high quality watershed conditions and aquatic habitats throughout the forest. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

WILDERNESS

The goals for the valley of Cayuse Creek seem reasonable as far as they go, but as we will point out later in our comments, this valley is an important component of the proposed Great Burn Wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation – MOSCOW, ID – 25)

IX-217. The Clearwater Forest should use existing management direction for the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area.

Moose-Cayuse should have no changes from the current forest plan. No forests damage has occurred since the 1987 plan's existence. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 37)

IX-218. The Clearwater Forest should protect lands in the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area.

Though already heavily logged and mined, the region still contains some of the most pristine areas in the United States, if not the world. Please take the steps necessary to protect areas such as Kelly Creek and the Mallard-Larkins area. I realize the pressure to open these areas up for further development and resource extraction, but such actions will benefit only a few, while protection will benefit everyone and everything. (Individual, POCATELLO, ID – 4889)

IX-219. The Clearwater Forest should emphasize restoration in the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area.

. . . restore the area from roading and mining impacts. Above Deadwood Creek, designate Moose Creek as passive restoration priority area. Restore aquatic processes in Gravey Creek. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-220. The Clearwater Forest should use timber harvest to manage vegetation in the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area.

We believe several areas should receive consideration for timber management. The Gravey Creek area is already roaded and the timber stands are in poor condition with significant mortality. The stated goal to improve the distribution of young forest at mid to lower elevations could be achieved using the precision of modern logging techniques. Extensive stands of lodgepole pine occur in the southeastern one third. These stands are vulnerable to insect attack. These factors suggest timber management as an appropriate tool to reduce fuels and achieve distribution and overall forest health goals. Mechanical treatment should be an available option along the Lolo Trail to treat for forest health and public safety. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-221. The Clearwater Forest should classify lands in the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

Except for the Lolo Trail, Kelly and Cayuse Creeks, areas that meet the factual criteria A, steps 1-7, found in the regional timber suitability policy and should be classified as suitable for timber production . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-222. The Clearwater Forest should remove some riparian areas in the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area from the timber base.

Because of high quality aquatic habitat, remove riparian areas of Moose Creek between Independence and Deadwood from the timber base . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-223. The Clearwater Forest should develop a low-impact road system in the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area.

All of these areas (including Moose-Cayuse) have the potential to develop a low impact road system located primarily on ridge-tops. Follow locating system roads with construction of temporary roads that will be obliterated after use. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 2100)

IX-224. The Clearwater Forest should not improve the Toboggan Ridge Road in the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area.

We request that no improvements be made on Toboggan Ridge road. Although we would like to see Toboggan Ridge road closed, in lieu of this, we see the best alternative is keeping this road in a primitive state where motorized access is provided but does not appear to detract from the wild and remote character of the area which it traverses. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

IX-225. The Clearwater Forest should maintain motorized and non-motorized trails in the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area.

The Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area currently provides outstanding motorized and non-motorized trail opportunities. Our Trail Ranger program has maintained the Scurvy Mountain Lookout Trail #524 for many years. The Idaho Centennial Trail also goes through the geographic area on trail #531. This trail is in need of reconstruction from Switchback Hill to Scurvy Mountain. If this trail were reconstructed, Centennial Trail travelers would be able to travel this portion of trail. The reconstructed trail would also provide another looping single-track motorized trail opportunity. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-226. The Clearwater Forest should maintain opportunities for motorized use in the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area.

HISTORIC USE

All of these areas (including Moose-Cayuse) have historic motorized access and we need to keep all of it. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 27)

Weitas Creek and Cayuse Creek are both historic for motorized access. We need to retain this access so that we can make sure the forest stays healthy. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 65)

SITE-SPECIFIC

This geographic area has many miles of trail which have been accessed and maintained be motorized users, mainly motorcycles, which the proposal seems to ignore. Many motorized users also prefer primitive areas and our members report little or no conflict with other users. We would protest the wholesale closure of this area to existing use. The following routes are used/maintained by motorized users: trail 594 Windy Ridge to Raspberry Butte. Trail 593 Raspberry Creek to trail 532 then up from Monroe Creek to Lookout Peak. Trail 531 to Scurvy Mountain. Trail 191 to Kelly Forks. Trail 106, Junction Creek to trail 191. Trail 524 Scurvy Mountain to East Saddle on road 581. Trail 532 and 534 from Cayuse Landing Field. Never Again Ridge Trail. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

SNOWMOBILES

The Lolo Motorway (500 Road) was once groomed and we would like that option to remain open in the future. This could be an important look trail connecting Montana with very important economic benefits for local businesses and communities. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

USER CONFLICTS

I enjoy all of these areas on my motorcycle. In 21 years of use, I have never had a conflict with another user of seen any motorized caused harm to the ground. Motorized user groups are a lot more responsible than our Forest Service thinks. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 1164)

IX-227. The Clearwater Forest should maintain roadless areas as roadless in the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area.

Maintain available roadless areas as roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Other roadless areas of the forest deserve to be protected, especially from ever-encroaching motorized. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 1133)

IX-228. The Clearwater Forest should recommend lands within the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

Moose Mountain Proposed Wilderness - 1305. This is a rugged and scenic area with important headwater tributaries. It has few trails which makes the area of interests to hikers seeking a challenge. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Because of the high value of roadless areas both for ecosystem health and venues of spiritual renewal, we support all areas recommended for wilderness . . . . Moose-Cayuse. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 39)

This area should be managed as potential wilderness for the following reasons; first for its outstanding roadless, wildlife and stream values, and second as a roadless linkage between the Great Burn and Weitas areas. Most of all three of these areas should be proposed wilderness and managed as such. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 38)

Moose-Cayuse. According to a report from Trout Unlimited, this area is a stronghold for westslope cutthroat and bull trout, the latter of which are indicators of habitat quality and require cold, clean water. Bull trout need safe, protected habitat, the kind offered by wilderness designation. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

All the roadless lands within the Great Burn and Moose-Cayuse Geographic Areas should be recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service for a Great Burn Wilderness. Kelly Creek's blue ribbon westlope cutthroat trout fishery is nationally known and deserves the strongest resource protection measure available, which would be wilderness designation. The addition of the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area to the Great Burn would create a much more ecologically intact and functioning Great Burn Wilderness Area. The Cayuse Creek drainage, headwaters of Kelly Creek, and the Moose Mountain area all display high erosion sensitivity. These areas should be protected permanently from the threat of road building by wilderness designation. To survive, bull trout need safe, protected habitat; the kind of habitat offered by wilderness designation. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

This area is important for the connectivity it provides linking the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and St. Joe with roadless areas on in Montana. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

With regard to Moose-Cayuse, the plan provides primitive non-motorized backcountry experiences and retaining the roadless wilderness character. Why not just recommend it for wilderness designation? If the reasoning is that existing snowmobile usage prevents wilderness, then recommend a wilderness with some (heavily regulated) snowmobile use. The current Boulder-White Clouds initiative provides for ATV trails within the wilderness. Surely, the same can be done in Moose-Cayuse with regard to snowmobiles. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA - 3283)

ALLOW SNOWMOBILE USE

With regard to Moose-Cayuse, the plan provides primitive non-motorized backcountry experiences and retaining the roadless wilderness character. Why not just recommend it for wilderness designation? If the reasoning is that existing snowmobile usage prevents wilderness, then recommend a wilderness with some (heavily regulated) snowmobile use. The current Boulder-White Clouds initiative provides for all-terrain vehicle trails within the wilderness. Surely, the same can be done in Moose-Cayuse with regard to snowmobiles. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA – 3283)

IX-229. The Clearwater Forest should recommend streams in the Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

. . . recommend Kelly and Cayuse Creeks for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Palouse River Geographic Area

IX-230. The Clearwater Forest should modify the desired future condition for the Palouse River Geographic Area.

GRAZING

A desired future condition for the Potlatch River Geographic Area is to manage livestock "to disperse their numbers" rather than have them concentrated. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

The proposed action identifies as a desired condition for the Palouse Geographic Area that livestock graze on hillsides and sometimes follow Forest Service roads as they move around the area. Though some may appreciate the bucolic imagery of livestock grazing on hillsides and wandering forest roads, we recommend an alternative future desired condition that better reflects the forest-wide direction. Livestock are excluded from riparian areas and wetlands and other areas where domestic grazing will adversely affect water quality or the quality and suitability of habitat for wildlife. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

Through the revision process the Tribe encourages the forests to reduce grazing impacts in the Palouse River, Potlatch River, and the Elk Creek. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

MOTORIZED RECREATION

The Palouse River Geographic Area states that "some" trails are open to off-highway vehicles and "some" native surface roads will be closed or restricted. While we understand specific route designation is not (decided by) forest plan objectives, we are afraid to endorse anything this vague. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

It is also stated, as a desired condition, that "Areas where mining claims are inactive have been rehabilitated, streams and landscapes restored, and roads closed." Many mining areas are of unique interest to the public, especially routes created as mine access routes. You leave no room for recreational access by declaring that road closure is an almost certainty. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

TIMBER HARVEST

A proposed future condition . . . is, "Past and current timber harvest activities are evident in this area." Although evidence of harvest is probably unavoidable in many cases, it is not likely to be desirable. We suggest that the sentences in the proposed action that describe forest vegetation as a mosaic of different ages and sizes as a result of harvest and managed fire adequately describe the desired condition. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

IX-231. The Clearwater Forest should modify goals for the Palouse River Geographic Area.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

Incorporate in allotment management plans the need to provide food and cover for wildlife and protect streambanks. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Where it says "restore vegetation and control fuels with timber harvest and prescribed fire" it should say "restore vegetation and control fuels with best management practices such as timber harvest and fire." The former statement draws conclusion as to how to reach the goal. (County Government, OROFINO, ID – 5387)

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE TRAIL SYSTEM

Mention is made of proposed off-highway vehicle restrictions but none is made of pursuing construction of a legitimate off-highway vehicle trail system. A future goal should be construction of the Palouse all-terrain vehicle trail system. Many local citizens put their own time and effort into planning this system. Why only mention the added-on aspect of restricting access? (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

This is a major area for recreation; lots of dispersed sites and trails on Forest Service and other ownerships. Motorized trails are in most places. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

One of the goals for Palouse River Geographic Area is to confine off-highway vehicles to designated routes during the non-winter season. The area is currently open to cross-country travel. Recreationists are using routes that were developed historically through logging, mining or grazing. These historic, non-system routes need to be incorporated into the designation process. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

RESTORATION

The proposed goal to "restore watershed to limit erosion and soil deposition in stream cannels" is unnecessarily limiting. Erosion and soil deposition are not the only causes of degradation in Palouse Geographic Area streams. Goals should either be more broadly stated, or the lists of goals should be amended to be inclusive of all of the restoration activities that are needed to attain desired future conditions. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

WATER QUALITY

The recent completion by Department of Environmental Quality of the Palouse Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load means that concerns for water temperature, sediment and bacteria are highlighted. . . . The recommendation is to not increase animal unit months, and to reduce sediment (Gold Cr 46 percent, Deep Creek 96 percent). (These) are very strong statements. The proposed goal that says “Restore watershed to limit erosion and soil deposition in stream channels” might be strengthened by adding “to contribute to the achievement of the total maximum daily load (TMDL)” or similar language. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-232. The Clearwater Forest’s proposed goals for the Palouse River Geographic Area are appropriate.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

The Wilderness Society supports the management direction of “confine off-highway vehicles to designated routes.” The society also supports the direction to protect areas that provide important wildlife security. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

SOIL CONDITIONS

The goal of restoring soil conditions to improve site productivity and water infiltration where extensive logging has compacted and displaced the ash cap is good. I'm concerned that there is not enough known about nutrient availability to make a strong case that we can improve it. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

WILDFIRES

We agree all wildfires should be controlled. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-233. The Clearwater Forest should correct the map for the Palouse River Geographic Area.

The map shows Browns Meadow in forest ownership. That parcel has been put into University of Idaho Experimental Forest ownership for the past year or so. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-234. The Clearwater Forest should modify the uses and activities table for the Palouse River Geographic Area.

The uses and activities table here would not include wildland fire use. Most of the other activities can probably be dealt with in forest-wide direction. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-235. The Clearwater Forest should restore forest health in the Palouse River Geographic Area.

The geographic area contains excellent timber growing sites. There is a need for a more aggressive approach to treat insect threats for forest health and accelerate watershed recovery. The mid area contains decadent stands in need of treatment to reinvigorate growth and prevent catastrophic loss. The north end has experienced repeated douglas fir beetle hits with additional stands primed for attack. Grand fir is currently occupying historic western white pine sites that need to be restored. Existing silvicultural investments need to be maintained, especially white pine plantations. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

There needs to be some discussion on restoring forest cover on lands that were cut-over when privately owned. Species would probably favor western white pine, but there are some areas where cedar or ponderosa pine might be applicable, check with ecologists. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-236. The Clearwater Forest should restore stream habitats in the Palouse River Geographic Area.

Restore degraded riparian areas and stream habitats. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-237. The Clearwater Forest should recognize the unique botanical community in the Palouse River Geographic Area.

The prairie forest interface is mentioned in the general location and description, but that botanical community isn't mentioned either in desired future conditions or goals. If it is so special, there ought to be some attention to retaining the areas that exist or restoring more of that habitat type. Perhaps a group outside the Forest Service has the more information on this plant community. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-238. The Clearwater Forest should classify lands in the Palouse River Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

All national forest land (in the Palouse River Geographic Area) should be classified as suitable for timber production. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-239. The Clearwater Forest should address livestock grazing problems in the Palouse River Geographic Area.

Identify, analyze and resolve livestock grazing problems. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-240. The Clearwater Forest should address the appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum category in the Palouse River Geographic Area.

There is no specific mention, or mention is vague, of the appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum category or categories in the following geographic areas descriptions: . . . Palouse River . . . . (State Association, BOISE, ID – 4894)

IX-241. The Clearwater Forest should inventory existing routes in the Palouse River Geographic Area.

Public Land Access Year-round is currently opposed to the restriction to designated routes. We could support restriction to existing routes that are inventoried. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID - 4389)

Not every non-system route needs to be designated, but routes that providing looping opportunities or a unique recreation experience should designated. If one of these routes are causing resource damage, we recommend that the route be reconstructed before it is opened to general recreation use. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

Broad strategic goals should facilitate incorporating routes that were developed historically through logging, mining or grazing into the designated, classified road and trail system. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

IX-242. The Clearwater Forest should improve motorized travel enforcement efforts in the Palouse River Geographic Area.

We would urge language be inserted to step up enforcement efforts and staff in problem areas and at problem times, especially since this area is near population centers and gets very popular on certain weekends. We would possibly support limited area restrictions. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID - 4389)

IX-243. The Clearwater Forest should manage winter recreation in the Palouse River Geographic Area.

This area is fairly heavily used by snowmobilers. The area around Laird Park and White Pine are used for cross-country skiing. The current winter recreation management program is working. We respect the wildlife closures, but they must be marked. At one time we had some groomed trails in this area and would like to see that option remain open in the future. We support this continuing as a shared-use area. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-244. The Clearwater Forest should prohibit winter logging along the Divide Road in the Palouse River Geographic Area.

The planning team needs to take the Palouse Divide Park-and-Ski system into account with the planning process. We request a timber management guideline that would prohibit winter logging along the divide road. This would minimize potential conflicts between timber operations and the recreating public. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-245. The Clearwater Forest should address the need to consolidate land ownership in the Palouse River Geographic Area.

There should be some mention of consolidating ownership as is mentioned in the Lolo Pass Geographic Area; land ownership has been consolidated through land acquisition or exchange. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-246. The Clearwater Forest should address cell phone towers in the Palouse River Geographic Area.

I see this area, with Highways 6 and 95, as being a prime target for cell-phone towers, not necessarily for residents, but to cover the highway traffic. In this heavily managed landscape it's probably appropriate, but there should be some side-boards on frequency, location or appearance, although they'll probably all have the blinking lights. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

Potlatch River Geographic Area

IX-247. The Clearwater Forest should link unique features with desired future conditions and goals for the Potlatch River Geographic Area.

The unique features section described the camas meadows, yet they are not mentioned in desired future conditions or goals. There should probably be some effort to retain/maintain/restore those camas meadows. This sort of activity might include removal of old railroad grades to re-establish the meadow function, or different levels of grazing to maintain them. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-248. The Clearwater Forest should modify desired future conditions for the Potlatch River Geographic Area.

It appears other sections of the proposed action seem to contradict the statement on page 10 that allotment management plans and policy do not provide adequate direction to achieve revised plan goals. For example, the proposed management direction for the Palouse River, Potlatch River and other geographic areas includes a goal to "incorporate in allotment management plans the need to provide food and cover for wildlife." A desired future condition for the Potlatch River Geographic Area is to manage livestock "to disperse their numbers rather than have them concentrated. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID - 3853)

The Potlatch River Geographic Area states that “some” trails are open to off-highway vehicles and “some” native surface roads will be closed or restricted. While we understand specific route designation is not (accomplished through) forest plan objectives, we are afraid to endorse anything this vague. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

Through the revision process the Tribe encourages the Forests to reduce grazing impacts in the Palouse River, Potlatch River, and the Elk Creek. (Tribal Government, LAPWAI, ID – 3867)

IX-249. The Clearwater Forest’s proposed desired future conditions are appropriate for the Potlatch River Geographic Area.

We agree wildfires should be controlled. (Timber Industry, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 1921)

IX-250. The Clearwater Forest should modify goals for the Potlatch River Geographic Area.

Is it a goal to have a viable population of steelhead? Timber harvest? Wildlife goals? Old-growth goals? Stream quality? (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

Incorporate in allotment management plans the need to provide food and cover for wildlife and maintain stream bank stability. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

MOTORIZED ACCESS

The statement "confine off-highway vehicles to designated routes (non-winter season)" states a management action and should not be a goal in and of itself. Please tell me it is not an exclusive goal to confine off-highway vehicles without reason. If this confinement is necessary it should state the goal which makes it necessary. (County Government, OROFINO, ID – 5387)

One of the goals for this geographic area also would confine off-highway vehicles to designated routes during the non-winter season. The geographic area has many miles of system and non-system roads. Some of these roads should be designated. There is also the need to designate some routes for four-wheel-drive vehicles. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

Broad strategic goals should facilitate using existing routes, both system and non-system roads and trails as open for full-sized vehicles. The Forest Service should avoid a forest plan prescription that excludes full-sized vehicles on Forest Service system trails, especially in this geographic area. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

STREAM RESTORATION

A stream restoration goal to restore watershed processes and steelhead trout habitat by limiting erosion and soil deposits in stream channels seems unnecessarily limiting. The proposed goal is consistent with the forest-wide goals, but why was this single action chosen as a goal and not others that may be equally appropriate to meet future desired conditions for water storage, shading, woody debris recruitment, and many more. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

IX-251. The Clearwater Forest's proposed goals are appropriate for the Potlatch River Geographic Area.

The Wilderness Society supports the management direction to confine off-highway vehicles to designated routes, and to close some native surface roads to protect water quality and wildlife security. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IX-252. The Clearwater Forest should modify the uses and activities table for the Potlatch River Geographic Area.

The uses and activities table would have wildland fire use not allowed. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-253. The Clearwater Forest should develop geographic area direction for the Potlatch River Geographic Area.

Mining activities in the anadromous drainage would need geographic area specific direction, if it's allowed at all. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-254. The Clearwater Forest should address restoration needs in the Potlatch River Geographic Area.

This geographic area also needs language about restoring soil conditions to improve site productivity and water infiltration where extensive logging has compacted and displaced the ash cap. This geographic area might also have restore watershed processes by reducing compacted areas or levees to encourage water retention and infiltration in meadows and re-meandering channels that have been straightened through historic timber harvest activities. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

Restore degraded riparian areas and stream habitats. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-255. The Clearwater Forest should restore forest health in the Potlatch River Geographic Area.

The geographic area contains excellent timber growing sites. There is a need for a more aggressive approach to treat insect threats to forest health and accelerate watershed recovery. Lodgepole pine stands are approaching conditions susceptible to insect attack, now is the time to treat and break up contiguous stands to ensure forest health across the landscape. Existing silvicultural investments need to be maintained, especially white pine plantations. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 19)

There needs to be some language about restoring acquired lands to appropriate forest cover. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-256. The Clearwater Forest should protect old-growth forest in the Potlatch River Geographic Area.

Old-growth forests should be identified and protected in this heavily logged area. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IX-257. The Clearwater Forest should classify lands in the Potlatch River Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

All national forest land (in the Potlatch River Geographic Area) should be classified as suitable for timber production. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-258. The Clearwater Forest should address livestock grazing problems in the Potlatch River Geographic Area.

Identify, analyze and resolve livestock grazing problems. (Preservation/Consevation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-259. The Clearwater Forest should address the appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum category in the Potlatch River Geographic Area.

There is no specific mention, or mention is vague, of the appropriate recreation opportunity spectrum category or categories in the following geographic area descriptions: . . . Potlatch River . . . . (State Association, BOISE, ID – 4894)

IX-260. The Clearwater Forest should continue current winter recreation management in the Potlatch River Geographic Area.

This is a very important area for snowmobiling and has groomed trails. We respect the wildlife closures, but they must be marked. The current winter recreation management program is working. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-261. The Clearwater Forest should recognize the impacts of utilities in the Potlatch River Geographic Area.

A major Bonneville Power utility corridor runs through this area. The utility corridor already exists, and there are smaller electric lines and gas lines in place along State Highway 3. I can imagine eventual cell phone towers along Highway 3 and 8, but with some sideboards for their impact. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-262. The Clearwater Forest should consider Potlatch Canyon for designation as a research natural area.

Potlatch Canyon might be considered as a special habitat or research natural area. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 137)

Pot Mountain Geographic Area

IX-263. The Clearwater Forest should modify the desired future condition for the Pot Mountain Geographic Area.

FIRE IN RELATION TO TIMBER HARVEST

. . . the plan states that forest health will be maintained by the use of fire. I assume that logging will be allowed only in roaded areas, but the plan is ambiguous here. Better wording is needed to establish intent. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA – 3283)

We disagree that forest health should be maintained with wild and prescribed fire. The geographic area contains extensive stands that are in need of treatment to improve forest health. The area is essentially encircled by an existing road system. Approximately 75 percent of the area can be accessed by existing road, low impact temporary roads, line systems or aerially. Insect and disease activity necessitates more aggressive management to ensure forest health. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

TIMBER HARVEST

The language for desired future conditions might be made clearer where the issue of timber harvest near Mush Saddle is concerned – clearer in the sense that use only of existing roads is contemplated. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 25)

IX-264. The Clearwater Forest should modify goals for the Pot Mountain Geographic Area.

"Use fire to develop and maintain diverse forest structure (size and density) and composition." Is the goal to use fire or to maintain diverse forest structure (size and density) and composition? State the goal not your conclusion. (County Government, OROFINO, ID – 5387)

IX-265. The Clearwater Forest should harvest timber from roaded areas in the Pot Mountain Geographic Area.

Timber harvest should remain in roaded areas. (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN – 12)

IX-266. The Forest Service should consider low-impact timber harvest options in the Pot Mountain Geographic Area.

A low-impact, ridge-top road can be constructed south from the vicinity of Mush Saddle. By using temporary roads with subsequent obliteration, conventional timber harvest systems and helicopter harvest can be in a combination that would allow for low impact, economically balanced resource treatment. Proper location and construction of access can be accomplished with a negative impact on water resources, treat dangerous fuels, and improve big game habitat. (Timber Industry or Associations, KAMIAH, ID – 57)

IX-267. The Clearwater Forest should designate lands in the Pot Mountain Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

Except for the lower elevation breaks, brush fields and high elevation non-commercial habitat types, the area meets the factual criteria A., steps 1-7, found in the regional timber suitability

policy and should be classified as suitable for timber production . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-268. The Clearwater Forest should consider development of a low-impact road system in the Pot Mountain Geographic Area.

All of these areas have the potential to develop a low impact road system located primarily on ridge-tops. Follow locating system roads with construction of temporary roads that will be obliterated after use. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 2100)

IX-269. The Clearwater Forest should allow motorized access in the Pot Mountain Geographic Area.

All of these areas have historic motorized access and we need to keep all of it. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 123)

MOTORCYCLES

I enjoy all of these areas on my motorcycle. In 21 years of use, I have never had a conflict with another user of seen any motorized caused harm to the ground. Motorized user groups are a lot more responsible than our Forest Service thinks. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 1164)

The geographic area is mostly undeveloped and contains an extensive trail system. This trail system is popular for experienced motorcyclists. In order to upgrade the trail system to all-terrain vehicles would require extensive reconstruction and eliminate the challenging motorcycling experience. We support keeping historic motorized opportunities in the area. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

This geographic area is valued for its extensive off-highway vehicle trail system. It's highly valued for its expert level motorcycle opportunity that has diminished in recent years. Blue Ribbon Coalition recommends decisions incorporated into the revised forest plan that keeps this valued recreation opportunity intact. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

SNOWMOBILES

This is not generally a heavily-used snow machine area, although we groom to the Bungalow along its boundary. We support the proposed action here. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-270. The Clearwater Forest should eliminate motorized use in the Pot Mountain Geographic Area.

The erosive nature of Pot Mountain (see attached map from Conservation Geography) require that the area be closed to motorized recreation use. The trails in the area were not designed or built for motorized use. Motorized use has simply become established through repeated travel. Closing Pot Mountain to motorized use will also maintain the identified excellent security for wildlife. Maintaining Pot Mountain as roadless will also protect the existing high mammal and bird diversity and cedar habitats . . . . (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IX-271. The Clearwater Forest should preserve campgrounds in the Pot Mountain Geographic Area.

The geographic area also contains the Washington Creek and Noe Creek Campgrounds. These campgrounds are located along road #250 and road #247. These roads are popular

access points into the upper North Fork. The campgrounds should remain available for use for the life of the revision. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-272. The Clearwater Forest should maintain roadless lands as roadless in the Pot Mountain Geographic Area.

Maintain available roadless areas as roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-273. The Clearwater Forest should recommend lands within the Pot Mountain Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

Pot Mountain Proposed Wilderness 1304 – This is a wild area noted for black bear and elk. It contains a diversity of habitat from cedar-hemlock to spruce. The round size of the area makes it an integral block of wild country eight miles wide and eight miles long with no intrusions. It is perhaps the wildest area on the Clearwater National Forest. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

. . . many areas suitable for wilderness protection were not included, and these areas are detailed below: Pot Mountain – the roadless parts of this geographic area. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID 3164)

There is need for a wilderness designation that will protect the heart of the Pot Mountain area. Historic motorized use can be accommodated, but will have to be strictly regulated. Wilderness designation for Pot Mountain is critical because it provides a bridge between the wild Weitas and the Mallard-Larkins. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA – 3283)

Pot Mountain - 50,000 acres; low elevation along the North Fork Clearwater up to higher elevations lands, 2,700 to 7,000 foot gradient overall; significant western red cedar on the north and west; highly erosive soils and landslide prone areas not suitable for motorized or mechanized recreation or logging. High priority areas are centered in Pot Mountain. Most of the Pot Mountain Geographic Area is included. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

Pot Mountain - 50,000 acres; low elevation along the North Fork Clearwater up to higher elevations lands, 2,700 to 7,000 foot gradient overall; significant western red cedar on the north and west; highly erosive soils and landslide prone areas not suitable for motorized or mechanized recreation or logging. High priority areas are centered in Pot Mountain. Most of the Pot Mountain Geographic Area is included. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

There is need for a wilderness designation that will protect the heart of the Pot Mountain area. Historic motorized use can be accommodated, but will have to be strictly regulated. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA - 3283)

Red River Geographic Area

IX-274. The Nez Perce Forest should consider a new name for the Red River Geographic Area.

This could better be named Upper South Fork Clearwater River. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-275. The Nez Perce Forest should modify the unique features identified for the Red River Geographic Area.

The unique features should include the listing of the Elk City municipal watershed . . . . (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-276. The Nez Perce Forest should modify the desired future condition for the Red River Geographic Area.

Western larch may be important but was seldom if ever dominant, historically, and would be difficult to make dominant. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

Northern portions of the geographic area sustained high levels of old growth, especially upper Newsome and American. This would be important to put into the desired condition, and would connect with marten and fisher habitat maintenance. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-277. The Nez Perce Forest should modify goals for the Red River Geographic Area.

DISTURBANCE REGIMES

Eliminate the goal that states: "Reflect the variation in intensity, scale and frequency associated with disturbance regimes (frequency and severity of natural events) in watersheds." The Forest Service dos not have any credible knowledge of disturbance regimes. The lack of specificity in this goal makes it meaningless at best and detrimental at worst. Goals that would allow any type of management, anywhere, such as this one do not provide direct, and create controversy and actions that lack accountability. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

ELK CITY MUNICIPAL WATERSHED

. . . the goals need to speak to maintaining quality water for a supply of clean water (Elk City municipal watershed). (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

HISTORIC PLACES

Proposed goals do not include preservation of historic places, roads, trails and mine sites. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

MINING

Both glory holes and placer sites are in the geographic area and need restoration to reduce sediment introduction to streams, restore landscapes and close roads. Mining activities are present. Areas where mining claims are inactive have been rehabilitated, streams and landscapes restored and roads closed. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

These geographic areas provide little to no consideration for road and trail access for off-highway vehicles. If any mention of motorized recreation exists it is in a "setting with roads." If this is all they can offer it is totally unacceptable. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3769)

RECREATION

Red River is a very popular riding area, a destination type attraction. This geographic area offers a variety of challenges and has many miles of groomed trails. It is also very important economically to local businesses, such as Red River Hot Springs, and struggling communities such as Elk City. With the loss of timber-oriented jobs, only recreation is left. To cut recreation access is to add insult to injury. We ask that access remain at the current level as a minimum. Motorized winter recreation in this geographic area should be a featured management emphasis, listed as a goal. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

REGARDING TIMBER MANAGEMENT

We agree with emphasis to use timber management in lodgepole pine. However, an equal emphasis should be placed on the other species. The southeast quarter has 100-year-old lodgepole pine with little current insect activity. The priority is to break up the uniform stands to prevent widespread mortality. The southwest quarter has good ponderosa pine, white fir and douglas fir with large and medium trees. Need is to maintain health and vigor. The northwest quarter is drier with ponderosa pine that needs treatment prior to prescribed fire. The northeast quarter is a high site with large old trees experiencing mortality. Treatment is needed to restore health and reduce fuels. Wildfire in this area would be destructive to soils and future productivity. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-278. The Nez Perce Forest should protect water quality in the Red River Geographic Area.

. . . document upward trend in American River, Crooked River, Red River, Newsome Creek, and other key tributaries. Support designation of maximum instream flow water rights to protect aquatic habitat. Comply with the total maximum daily load (TMDL) established for the South Fork Clearwater. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-279. The Nez Perce Forest should restore and develop lands in the Red River Geographic Area.

Restore these areas and we need to enter some of the roadless in these areas. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

IX-280. The Nez Perce Forest should propose a solution to bug infestation in the Red River Geographic Area.

You have ignored the number one problem on the Nez Perce Forest when you did not mention the bug infestation on the Red River District and what you proposed to do about it. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-281. The Nez Perce Forest should classify lands as suitable for timber production in the Red River Geographic Area.

The geographic area meets the factual criteria in A, steps 1-7, of the regional suitability policy should be classified as suitable for timber production . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-282. The Nez Perce Forest should address road density in the Red River Geographic Area.

Road density reduction is crucial in this geographic area. It should be mentioned specifically to give the public a chance to comment. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-283. The Nez Perce Forest should change its approach regarding the locations of motorized and non-motorized recreation in the Red River Geographic Area.

The proposed action mentioned that non-motorized recreation opportunities would be focused in roadless areas while motorized recreation opportunities would be focused in roaded areas. We believe that this is a wrong approach to take for the geographic area. Non-motorized and motorized recreationists look for opportunities in roaded and unroaded areas. The revision should look to provide both opportunities in roaded and unroaded areas. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-284. The Nez Perce Forest should address uncontrolled use of all-terrain vehicles in the Red River Geographic Area.

All-terrain vehicle use is rampant, uncontrolled, and destructive, yet nothing is mentioned to address this concern. It needs an open discussion so the public can comment. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-285. The Nez Perce Forest should protect the snowmobile trail system in the Red River Geographic Area.

The plan revision should work to develop guidelines and standards to help protect the Elk City/Red River snowmobile trail system. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-286. The Nez Perce Forest should close the non-wilderness corridor into Buffalo Hump to snowmobile use.

The non-wilderness corridor into Buffalo Hump should be closed to snowmobile use to stop snowmobile trespass into the Gospel Hump Wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IX-287. The Nez Perce Forest should conserve remaining roadless areas in the Red River Geographic Area.

Conservation of the remaining roadless areas is also important for aquatic refugia. This should be mentioned, as well as the need for fire use management plans for roadless areas. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

It would be a mistake, we believe, to undervalue the small roadless remnant located just north of Red River Hot Springs. This area offers many educational contrasts to the rest of Red

River, and should be retained, which appears to be the case as anticipated by the proposed action. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 25)

IX-288. The Nez Perce Forest should add the Multi-Resource Development Area to the roadless area in the Red River Geographic Area.

The Multi-Resource Development Area is unproductive and inaccessible. This should be added to the roadless areas to protect aquatic and scenic values in upper Crooked River. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-289. The Nez Perce Forest should recommend additional lands within the Red River Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

Silver Creek - Pilot Knob Proposed Wilderness - 1849. This area is of significance to the Nez Perce Tribe. Pilot Rock is a unique natural feature and several meadows are found below the peaks. The area was greatly reduced between Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) II and the forest plan though the development was not as severe as the boundary deletions would indicate. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Lick Point Lick Point Proposed Wilderness - 1227. This is the headwaters of the American River and it is crucial that habitat be protected for threatened, endangered and sensitive fish species. It is important moose range and much of the area was burned in fires early in this century. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Dixie Summit/Nut Hill Proposed Wilderness - 1235. A unique research natural area is inside this area. Much of it has been excluded since the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) II inventory though it appears development was not as extensive as the boundary adjustment would indicate. Also, land to the north of the formal inventoried roadless area is roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

IX-290. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should modify the desired future condition for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

What about the need to restore the area affected by outfitter camps? (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-291. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should modify goals for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Proposed goals should mention the keeping open and maintaining the airstrips in the wilderness according to the wilderness plan. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-292. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should update Selway-Bitterroot General Management Direction.

Forest plan amendments have been issued when the general management direction has been changed. While the general management direction contains much important direction, it needs to be updated to meet the legal requirements of the Wilderness Act and to better meet public involvement mandates. (See letter for seven pages of specific suggestions.) (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

REINITIATE THE LIMITS OF ACCEPTABLE CHANGE PROCESS

Reinitiate the public – U.S. Forest Service Limits of Acceptable Change process and continue with updating of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Management Plan direction. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4381)

IX-293. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider encouraging individual self-discovery in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Do everything possible to maintain and encourage the individual's "opportunity for discovery" by not identifying unique sites. Therefore, delete the Salmon Hole on Bear Creek, as unique. This only calls attention to the site . . . . (Individual, PECK, ID – 4381)

IX-294. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should use "human power" to build and maintain trails in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Continue to explore and use methods for trail-building and maintenance that use human-power not machines. Stop relying on rock drills. Locate trails for least maintenance. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

Truly reinstitute the concept of "minimum tool" for project planning and implementation. Continue using traditional tools for trail building and maintenance without relying on machines. Stop relying on motorized rock drills. Wilderness bridge replacement: should follow Bud Moore's apt recommendation: "It's really very simple Dick, just keep it primitive." Use native materials, incorporating traditional design, where practicable for primary support timbers. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4381)

IX-295. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should ensure funding of wilderness management personnel.

Fund enough field presence - wilderness rangers - to effectively manage the Selway-Bitterroot's Limits of Acceptable Change plan. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

Fund on-the-ground management - wilderness rangers with emphasis on reducing resource impacts and meeting the stated objectives of the existing Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Limits of Acceptable Change Plan. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4381)

WILDERNESS COORDINATOR

Re-institute the Wilderness Coordinator Position for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, until such time this wilderness can be placed under single unit management (Individual, PECK, ID – 4381)

IX-296. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider employment of skilled wilderness workers in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Skills of field workers should present the same mix as those of wilderness visitors: Backcountry crews should be adept at both backpack and stock techniques; personnel at backcountry stations should be experienced in aircraft and rafting experiences and techniques. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

IX-297. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider control of weeds in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

The Forest Service should prepare a comprehensive, wilderness-wide exotic weed control management plan and environmental impact statement for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

How will weeds be managed? There is a need for an integrated weed management environmental impact statement. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

Noxious weed programs should be based on first determining the desired vegetation, before adopting programs to “get rid of” weeds. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

IX-298. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the need for an access road through the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Selway-Bitterroot: 823,671 acres set aside for less than 2% of the forest visitors to enjoy. Again on of our most scenic areas in Idaho County locked up so no one can see it, an access road through the area would mean that millions of people could enjoy it. (People) Can't wear out scenery by looking at it. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-299. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider continuing work with backcountry pilots in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Continue to record aircraft use at Fish Lake and to work with Idaho backcountry pilots' associations on pilot education against fly-ins, touch-and-gos, crowding, camping along backcountry airstrips. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

Continue to record aircraft use at all fly-in public portals (Moose Creek, Shearer and Fish Lake). Continue to work with the Idaho Division of Aeronautics and the Idaho Backcountry Pilots Association encouraging the use of these wilderness airstrips as portals. Address wilderness flying etiquette, touch-and-gos, the “bagging” of airstrips, and the appropriateness

of fly-ins (with a limit in the number of aircraft and participants similar to limits placed on pack stock and river parties). (Individual, PECK, ID – 4381)

IX-300. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider initiating a mandatory self-registration permit system in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Initiate a mandatory self-registration wilderness visitor permit system. All visitors will then be aware of "the rules of the trail" and any "special user regulations" before they leave the portal and arrive at the site in question. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4381)

IX-301. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should develop criteria for improvements in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Develop criteria for wilderness portal improvements based on Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) and the carrying capacity (CC) of the area serviced by said portal, not on perceived demand, or desires of special interest groups. (e.g.: Why would you want to improve stock facilities at portals servicing high elevation lake sites when research and agency management studies both clearly indicate that restoration of these vulnerable sites is a more costly long term venture, than controlling impactive use in the first place?) (Individual, PECK, ID – 4381)

IX-302. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider the maintenance of trails in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Under current management, Backcounrty Horsemen are seeing our trails transportation system decreased in both size and serviceability. To a certain extent this may be the function of decreasing budgets, but it is also a conscious strategy on the part of extremist groups, and sympathizers within the agency, to render these areas "pristine" and inaccessible. The efforts of local wilderness extremist groups to eliminate of downgrade the condition of trails in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness to a point that recreational pack and saddle stock would be included serve as ongoing examples of this effort. (Non-Motorized/Non-Mechanized Recreation, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3873)

IX-303. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should consider continuing wilderness education programs in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Continue the education programs in place and make education a critical criterion for the knowledge, skills and abilities for new wilderness rangers. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

IX-304. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recommend additions to the existing Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

White Sand Creek, North Fork Wilderness Addition - 1309. Many of the streams and rivers in these areas still run wild with rare steelhead, bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. This is a wet, high elevation area in the upper Lochsa that is reported to contain the rare Harlequin duck. The Rudd Moore Lakes area should be evaluated to see if it is a logical addition to this area. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Sneakfoot Wilderness Addition - 1314. This wet area is home to a thriving moose herd. Along with White Sand and part of the Lochsa Face, this area used to be part of the old Selway Primitive Area but was administratively axed by the agency from the wilderness in

1963. Because of the unique wet meadows, a portion of the area is a research natural area. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Lochsa Face Wilderness Addition - 1311. This is the steep face of the Lochsa River adjacent to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. It contains the famous Jerry Johnson Hot Springs and important tributaries to the Lochsa River. Much of it was formerly part of the old Selway Primitive Area. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Rackcliff-Gedney Wilderness Addition (see Nez Perce National Forest) (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Lolo Wilderness Addition - 1805 (mostly on the Lolo National Forest). This is part of a large roadless area that encompasses the north flank of Lolo Peak, the northern boundary of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Section 16 Wilderness Addition – 1310. This area is adjacent to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and just south of the Lolo Creek area. It was erroneously dropped from the 1987 forest plan inventory though included in Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) II. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Upper Bear Creek Wilderness Addition. This area, about 700 acres, has been in wilderness proposals though it was inadvertently neglected in the Nez Perce forest plan inventory. However, it appears to have been included in Bitterroot National Forest inventories as it is contiguous with the Selway-Bitterroot additions on that forest (although it is in Idaho, on the Nez Perce National Forest). (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

IX-305. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests should recommend rivers within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Recommend Bear Creek, Moose Creek, and the Three Links complexes for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Selway Front Geographic Area

IX-306. The Nez Perce Forest has identified the appropriate desired future condition for the Selway Front Geographic Area.

We were pleased to see that part of the desired future condition provides both semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. These opportunities need to be carried forward into the revision. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-307. The Nez Perce Forest should modify the desired future condition for the Selway Front Geographic Area.

Forests include spruce and fir at upper elevations and in cold drainages, as well as those mentioned. Landscape patterns include mixed severity fire, especially in riparian areas and upper slopes. Hardwood (birch) and early seral brush were historically important and should be considered in restoration or maintenance of disturbance regimes. Consider slope stability issues with respect to harvest types and road construction. Will the roadless area be maintained? (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-308. The Nez Perce Forest should correct the map of the Selway Front Geographic Area.

The Fenn Ranger station is north of the Selway River. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-309. The Nez Perce Forest should restore and develop lands in the Selway Front Geographic Area.

Restore these areas and we need to enter some of the roadless in these areas. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

IX-310. The Nez Perce National Forest should use timber harvest to manage vegetation in the Selway Front Geographic Area.

This geographic area is highly productive with over-mature grand fir-cedar mix that is ripe for a catastrophic event. Occasional timber harvest is not enough emphasis. When high sites like this burn, they burn destructively hot. Mechanical treatment should be an available option along the Selway River to treat for forest health and public safety. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-311. The Nez Perce Forest should manage for timber production and recreation in the Selway Front Geographic Area.

Manage for timber and recreation, restore cedar stands. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-312. The Nez Perce Forest should designate lands in the Selway Front Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

The geographic area outside specially-designated areas that meet the factual criteria in A, steps 1-7, of the regional suitability policy should be classified as suitable for timber production per rational in our general comments. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-313. The Nez Perce Forest should allow winter motorized use in the Selway Front Geographic Area.

This is a major snowmobiling area, important to local economies. It should remain open for winter motorized recreation. Present management is working well. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-314. The Nez Perce Forest should maintain roadless areas as roadless in the Selway Front Geographic Area.

Maintain available roadless areas as roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-315. The Nez Perce Forest should recommend lands within the Selway Front Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

Rackcliff-Gedney Wilderness Addition - 1841 (also Clearwater National Forest). This large area occupies the divide between the Lochsa and Selway Rivers. It includes important historical sites, popular trails, scenic lakes, and winter range for ungulates. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

O'Hara Falls Proposed Wilderness - 1226. O'Hara Creek is a unique diverse drainage with a research natural area and large ferns. A scenic waterfall and important anadromous fish habitat is within the unit. This area contains habitat for unique coastal disjunct species including the rare and declining Pacific dogwood. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Clear Creek Proposed Wilderness - 1844. This area is surrounded by development. This area has escaped logging because fires early in this century replaced some of the forest with shrubs. This area is crucial wildlife winter range. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Goddard Creek Proposed Wilderness - 1843. This area occupies the central position between O'Hara Falls and Middle Fork Face. This area contains habitat for unique coastal disjunct species including the rare and declining Pacific dogwood and anadromous fish. It was erroneously removed from the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) II inventory (see map from our scoping comments documenting its inventory). Logging has already damaged this area and it may no longer be 5,000 acres in size. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

IX-316. The Nez Perce Forest should explain the different designations in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The geographic area contains the Selway River. The river in this segment is designated as a “recreational” river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The planning team needs to explain the difference between a wild, scenic, and recreation river in the environmental impact statement. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

South Fork Clearwater Geographic Area

IX-317. The Nez Perce Forest should re-name the South Fork Geographic Area.

South Fork Clearwater River (this could better be named Lower South Fork Clearwater). (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-318. The Nez Perce Forest should modify the general location and description for the South Fork Geographic Area.

Newsome Creek occurs in the Red River Geographic Area, not the South Fork. Elk City is not in this Geographic Area either. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-319. The Nez Perce Forest should modify the desired future condition for the South Fork Clearwater Geographic Area.

Mining activities are present. Areas where mining claims are inactive have been rehabilitated, streams and landscapes restored and roads closed. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

IX-320. The Nez Perce Forest should modify goals for the South Fork Clearwater Geographic Area.

CLEARWATER MUNICIPAL WATERSHED

The "unique features" mentions the Clearwater municipal watershed, so the goals should include something about maintaining a supply of clean water. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 20)

MULTIPLE

What are proposed goals for the Pilot Knob area? Will the roadless character of Silver Creek be maintained? Can you define and delineate the wildland urban interface? (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID 5441)

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

These geographic areas provide little to no consideration for road and trail access for off-highway vehicles. If any mention of motorized recreation exists it is in a "setting with roads." If this is all they can offer it is totally unacceptable. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 3769)

ROAD DENSITIES

There are areas of unacceptably high road density. This should be mentioned in the "restore watershed" section. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

SEDIMENT

The past 12 years of sediment and fish management has proved to be a failure. History tells us that from 1862 to 1940 the sediment load in the South Fork was highest ever, from placer mining and the fish population remained the highest ever. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-321. The Nez Perce Forest's proposed goals for the South Fork Geographic Area are appropriate.

We agree timber management is a viable tool for vegetation management in this geographic area. The south half deserves priority for treatment. The southwest quarter has 150-year-old douglas fir-white fir with widespread root rot. Additionally, the large 200-year-old-plus ponderosa pine needs treatment to restore vigor and ensure future recruitment of young trees. The southeast quarter is (a) high site with 200-to-250 year-old douglas fir-white fir. The mortality potential is significant. Wildfire in these stands would be destructive to soils and future productivity. In the north half the need is to protect and enhance past silvicultural investments and treat older stands to restore vigor and health. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-322. The Nez Perce Forest should restore and develop lands in the South Fork Clearwater Geographic Area.

Restore these areas and we need to enter some of the roadless in these areas. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

IX-323. The Nez Perce Forest should document upward trends and comply with total maximum daily loads (TMDL) in the South Fork Clearwater Geographic Area.

Document upward trend in watershed and fish habitat recovery (with real field data) in the South Fork, Clearwater River and key fisheries streams that have been degraded. Documentation must occur before any further logging, road building, and livestock grazing. Comply with the total maximum daily load (TMDL) established for the South Fork. Support designation of maximum in stream flow rights to protect aquatic habitat. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

The South Fork and many of its tributaries are included in the state's 303d list of streams with compromised water quality. A total maximum daily load (TMDL) has been written for the basin, and implementation plans are underway. The forest plan revision needs to include implementation plans for streams within the forest boundary. All management activities need to address not only the negative impact on water quality, but also how the activities will contribute to improving sediment and temperature in the basin. Cumulative affects of multiple activities need to be assessed before activities are approved. (Individual, KOOSKIA, ID – 4382)

IX-324. The Nez Perce Forest should use timber harvest to treat vegetation in the South Fork Geographic Area.

Most of this area is in bad need of vegetation treatment to prevent tragic wildfire. This should be done by mechanical means; prescribed fire is non-selective and creates more fuel for the fire. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-325. The Nez Perce Forest should designate lands in the South Fork Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

The geographic area meets the factual criteria in A, steps 1-7v of the regional suitability policy and should be classified as suitable for timber production . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-326. The Nez Perce Forest should preserve historic sites in the South Fork Clearwater Geographic Area.

Plan should include preservation of historic sites, Nez Perce Trail, Elk City Wagon Road. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-327. The Nez Perce Forest should allow recreational uses to continue in the South Fork Geographic Area.

MOTORIZED ACCESS

We wish to add to or reinforce the presence of the following roads and trails, which we use, and insist, remain open and available to motorized access and be marked as "open" on the ground and on agency maps. Trails 385, 320, and road 673 commonly referred to as the Dairy Mountain Trail, approximately 3.5 to 4.0 miles starting at trail 385 and ending at road 673 and including the Shell Lick Work Station. This is an important recreational trail. Trail 313 commonly called Heppner Creek Trail, a trail of approximately one (1) mile beginning at Adam Work Center and ending at the 444 Gospel Road. This is currently open and should remain open. Trail 328, beginning at Sawyer Ridge and ending at Marble Point near road 1862. This is a trail of approximately nine (9) miles used for recreational rides with opportunity for impressive views. Road 1862, continuing for approximately 2.5 to 3.0 miles to road 309 near Hungry Ridge Road. This is a valuable recreational ride road. (Motorized Recreation, WHITE BIRD, ID – 32)

MOTORIZED ACCESS AND CAMPGROUNDS

The South Fork Clearwater Geographic Area contains several recreation facilities such as the Cougar Creek Off-highway Vehicle Trail System. This trail system was developed cooperatively through our department and the Nez Perce National Forest with an off-road motor vehicle fund grant. This facility should remain available for the life of the revision plan. The geographic area also contains the Elk City Wagon Road and Castle Creek, South Fork and Meadow Creek Campgrounds, as well as a few picnic areas. The South Fork Clearwater River corridor is a well-traveled recreation access corridor. The revised plan should protect the extensive recreation opportunities within the geographic area. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

SNOWMOBILES

This area represents tremendous variety of topography and vegetative communities. This translates into an outstanding riding area, very popular with snowmobilers from throughout the region. This is a high use area with groomed trails. We ask that opportunities here not be cut with additional closures. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-328. The Nez Perce Forest should consider the area's aquatic and social significance when developing roadless area direction for the South Fork Clearwater Geographic Area.

The main problem with this geographic area is the conflict between maintenance of scenic and aquatic integrity and the prior commitment to development in the Multi-Resource Development Area. This is nowhere addressed. This area will be difficult and environmentally costly to access. It is roadless and will waste our time to attempt to develop in a traditional way. I'd suggest that it go back into the roadless bin and get a real analysis that considers the new information of its aquatic and social significance. It provides and ideal

buffer area to use prescribed and natural fire adjacent to the Gospel-Hump (Wilderness). (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 5441)

IX-329. The Nez Perce Forest should recommend lands in the South Fork Clearwater Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

Gospel-Hump Wilderness Additions. Roadless land that should be added to this inventory was erroneously omitted from the forest plan though included in Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) II. This includes Johns Creek, Boulder Creek, Indian Creek, and other areas. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Silver Creek - Pilot Knob Proposed Wilderness - 1849. This area is of significance to the Nez Perce Tribe. Pilot Rock is a unique natural feature and several meadows are found below the peaks. The area was greatly reduced between Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) II and the forest plan though the development was not as severe as the boundary deletions would indicate. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

Upper Lochsa Geographic Area

IX-330. The Clearwater Forest had identified an appropriate desired future condition for the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area.

We agree timber harvest should occur throughout the geographic area. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

Desired future conditions; Roadless character and limited motorized access provide well-distributed security for wildlife. Wintertime motorized access is appropriate. Management as "facto wilderness" is appropriate. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 27)

IX-331. The Clearwater Forest should modify goals for the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area.

We feel wildfires should be aggressively controlled. The area has heavy fuels and historically when they burned, they burned hot. Existing silvicultural investments need to be maintained and enhanced. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

Goals - delete paragraph six. Provide semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities outside of designated wilderness. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 27)

IX-332. The Clearwater Forest should restore salmon runs in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area.

I am also interested in, and have looked at, projects to restore salmon runs to the upper Lochsa. Again, it is important to protect the headwaters of the Lochsa above the roads. (Individual, MISSIOULA, MT – 1139)

IX-333. The Clearwater Forest should restore and develop lands in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area.

We need to restore these areas and we need to enter some of the roadless in these areas as the ‘87 plan stated to supply resources to the mills in the area. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

IX-334. The Clearwater Forest should use timber harvest to manage vegetation in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area.

Mechanical treatment should be an available option along the Lolo Trail and Highway 12 to treat for forest health and public safety. Area needs vegetation thinning to prevent future wildfires. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-335. The Clearwater Forest should designate lands in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

The majority of the geographic area outside specially designated areas should be classified as suitable for timber production . . . . (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-336. The Cleawater Forest should consider a low-impact road system in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area.

All of these areas have the potential to develop a low-impact road system located primarily on ridge-tops. Follow locating system roads with construction of temporary roads that will be obliterated after use. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 2100)

IX-337. The Clearwater Forest should allow motorized access in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area.

Road needs to be open to Hoodoo lake, this is one of the few lakes that handicapped people have access to on these two forests. Tom Beal Park should be included as motorized accessible. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-338. The Clearwater Forest should maintain current management direction for winter recreation in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area.

This is another important riding area, heavily used by the snowmobiling community. It ties into Montana trails and the Lolo Motorway (500 Road). While it has some cross-country skiing, current management direction is adequate. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-339. The Clearwater Forest should lease Jerry Johnson Hot Springs in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area.

Jerry Johnson Hot Springs should be put up for lease to private business to develop, added attraction for Hwy 12, better use of our natural resources. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-340. The Clearwater Forest should continue to prohibit overnight camping at Jerry Johnson Hot Springs.

Jerry Johnson Hot Springs: Continue the prohibition against overnight camping by providing adequate law enforcement coverage and personnel. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

IX-341. The Clearwater Forest should manage roadless areas as roadless in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area.

Maintain available roadless areas as roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Other roadless areas of the forest deserve to be protected, especially from the ever-encroaching motorized uses. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 1133

IX-342. The Clearwater Forest should recommend streams in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area for designation in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Recommend Colt Killed Creek (all segments) for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-343. The Clearwater Forest should recommend lands in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

Eldorado Creek Proposed Wilderness - 1312. This is the last natural area remaining in the more gentle and rolling forests that used to characterize northern Idaho. Much of this area has been logged and it may no longer be roadless and 5,000 acres in size. Other areas: There are a few others such as a block of land near Wendover on the Clearwater National Forest, just south of the 500 road that may be 5,000 acres in size and of wilderness quality. Regardless, these roadless areas should be identified. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

We support your current recommendations for wilderness. However, we suggest several additions. We believe that the areas below qualify for wilderness and we ask that you retain their wild and remote character. Upper Lochsa: The wilderness recommendations from the current Clearwater plan should be expanded to include all roadless lands in the Colt Killed Creek drainage. Security areas for moose, pine martin, wolves, and wolverines have been identified here. In addition, an Upper Lochsa wilderness would establish a much needed north-south corridor for wildlife migration which would play a critical role in the continuity and long-term sustainability of the northern Rocky Mountain ecosystem, providing large and relatively unfragmented forest habitat connecting the Cabinet-Yaak and Glacier-Bob Marshall Ecosystem with the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

The wilderness recommendations from the first generation Clearwater forest plan should be expanded to include all the roadless lands in the Colt Killed Creek drainage, including Walton Creek. The aquatic values of this drainage more than justify a wilderness recommendation by the Forest Service to add this area to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Years ago the Forest Service documented the importance of this watershed to anadromous fish protection. The system was recognized by the state of Idaho as the best spawning, incubation, and rearing habitat for Chinook salmon of all the Lochsa River tributaries. The system is also considered critical for bull trout. . . . There is also widespread goshawk nesting and foraging habitat throughout this roadless area of the upper Lochsa Geographic Area. Security areas for moose, pine martin, wolves, and wolverines have been identified here. The area was documented as supporting one of the largest moose populations in north-central Idaho. The area was also identified as playing a critical role in the continuity and long-term sustainability of the northern Rocky Mountain Ecosystem, providing large and relatively unfragmented forest habitat connecting the Cabinet-Yaak and Glacier - Bob Marshall Ecosystem with the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

Elk Summit - 39,000 acres and Lochsa Face - 73,000 acres, in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area and Middle Lochsa Geographic Area, is an obvious addition to ecological stronghold and recreational opportunities of the Selway-Bitterroot. Prime steelhead spawning (exists) in Colt Killed Creek. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

IX-344. The Clearwater Forest should not recommend additional lands in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

No more wildernesses needed in this area. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-345. The Clearwater Forest should not manage proposed wilderness as if it were designated wilderness in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area.

We are opposed to management of proposed wilderness and inventoried roadless areas as wilderness. We did not have time to collect specific comments for this area. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

We strongly object to closing the Elk Summit proposed wilderness addition. Elk Summit is heavily used by snowmobilers and has been used for years with no apparent compromise of its wilderness potential. This area should remain open. This use is very important to the local economy, especially places like the Lochsa Lodge and Lolo Hot Springs. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

IX-346. The Clearwater Forest should prohibit motorized uses in recommended wilderness in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area.

Preserve wilderness characteristics of areas proposed for wilderness by prohibiting motorized access and motorized tool use. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

IX-347. The Clearwater Forest should preserve research natural areas in the Upper Lochsa Geographic Area.

Sneakfoot Meadows Research Natural Area: Preserve research natural areas by making other resource areas such as fire and recreation aware of the value and rules that apply for keeping these preserves free from human disturbance. Maintain research natural areas for their long-term values to measure ecosystem change. Allow successional changes to take place no matter how much the area may become different from the description in the establishment report. (Individual, PECK, ID – 4384)

Weitas Geographic Area

IX-348. The Clearwater Forest should modify the desired future condition for the Weitas Geographic Area.

FIRE

We disagree with proposed desired future condition where prescribed fire and wild land fire are the primary disturbances to restore vegetation and reduce fuel. Forest health problems occur throughout the area. In some places, for example, north facing slopes on the south side are suffering severe mortality. Fire in these areas will likely be catastrophic due to heavy unbroken fuel. The 500 road should remain available for timber hauling in special cases. Mechanical treatment should be an option available along the Lolo Trail to treat for forest health and public safety. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

"Timber harvest may occur throughout the area . . . ." This is inconsistent with the three-pronged approach. No mention of recreation planning for campgrounds, etc., or outfitter special uses. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

The desired future condition language on possible timber harvest is very unclear and ambiguous. It is hard to conceive of any wise, reasonable, or cost-effective way in which logging of any kind could occur much to the east of roads 555/103. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 25)

Idaho Department of Fish and Game has on numerous occasions stated our wish that the Forest Service protect and preserve existing mature forest in the Weitas drainage. To reinforce that position here, we suggest that the proposed desired future condition for the Weitas Geographic Area state that existing mature forest stands will be maintained within this Geographic Area. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

IX-349. The Clearwater Forest has identified an appropriate desired future condition for the Weitas Geographic Area.

We agree that timber harvest within this Geographic Area should be focused along the western edge of the geographic area as proposed. However, we agree not only because existing roads make harvest more economical, but primarily because we believe that no new roads should be constructed in this geographic area. Any future harvest in the Weitas Geographic Area should be from roads currently in use only. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

IX-350. The Clearwater Forest should modify goals for the Weitas Geographic Area.

"Prescribed fire and wildland fire use are the primary disturbances, restoring vegetation and reducing fuel." It would seem that the goal is to use fire when perhaps the goal should be to restore vegetation and reduce fuel by whatever means are effective. This goes along with the perception that the U.S. Forest Service has already made up its mind about these future directions. Also where it says "Timber harvest may occur throughout the area but will be focused along the western edge where existing roads make harvest more economical," indicates that you are placing a restriction on timber harvest before the plan is really even started. Perhaps a better way to phrase this would be "Timber harvest may occur throughout

the area where it is economically feasible." To limit timber harvest to where you deem it feasible indicates that you have made assumptions about the feasibility of timber harvest in the future. Is that really the intention or is the intention to simply limit timber harvest. (County Government Agency/Elected Official/Association, OROFINO, ID – 5387)

The revised plan should include strategies and goals for road construction and road densities for this (Weitas) and all other geographic areas. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

IX-351. The Clearwater Forest should include more information about the Weitas Geographic Area.

Lack of information is obvious in this area. Does not show past timber harvest, plantations or areas managed for future harvest. Map does not show roads that could be used for future management. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-352. The Clearwater Forest should protect lands in the Weitas Geographic Area.

. . . concerned about the threat of development in Weitas and Meadow Creeks. Having personally recreated in both of these areas, I urge you to protect them throughout the life of the next forest plan. (Individual, BOISE, ID – 5444)

IX-353. The Clearwater Forest should restore drainages in the Weitas Geographic Area.

Middle Creek drainage is in need of active restoration (improved riparian management sediment reduction from roads) to support westlope cutthroat trout and bull trout population strongholds. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-354. The Clearwater Forest should restore and develop lands in the Weitas Geographic Area.

We need to restore these areas and we need to enter some of the roadless in these areas as the ‘87 plan stated to supply resources to the mills in the area. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

IX-355. The Clearwater Forest should address insect infestations in the Weitas Geographic Area.

Good forest management wouldn't propose to let insects devastate this area. (Reference Red River Bugs) on the Nez Perce Forest. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-356. The Clearwater Forest should implement the three-pronged strategy in the Weitas Geographic Area.

The three-pronged approach fo the Clearwater National Forest office promised in the newspaper is not fulfilled as the proposed action allows logging in Weitas Creek, a crucial roadless area. (Individual, TROY, ID – 4383)

IX-357. The Clearwater Forest should harvest timber from roaded areas in the Weitas Geographic Area.

Timber harvest should remain in roaded areas. (Individual, MINNEAPOLIS, MN – 12)

IX-358. The Clearwater Forest should classify lands in the Weitas Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

The majority of the geographic area should be classified as suitable for timber production per rationale in our general comments. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-359. The Clearwater Forest should consider building a road to access timber stands in the Weitas Geographic Area.

In the 1987 plan, the 500 road was to be used for timber hauling. An administrative decision has been made to now use the 500 road for recreational access only. It is unclear whether the status will continue after the Lewis-Clark Bicentennial celebration has past. Assuming this administrative status will stay in effect, a mid-slope road originating from the 103 road should be designed and constructed to provide access to timber stands lying between Weitas Creek and the 500 road. This would provide access for utilization of harvest systems as outlined above for Pot Mountain. This area contains many stands of over-stocked, insect and disease prone older fir in bad need of silvicultural treatment. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 57)

IX-360. The Clearwater Forest should consider a low-impact road system in the Weitas Geographic Area.

All of these areas have the potential to develop a low-impact road system located primarily on ridge-tops. Follow locating system roads with construction of temporary roads that will be obliterated after use. (Timber Industry, KAMIAH, ID – 2100)

IX-361. The Clearwater Forest should not build roads in the Weitas Geographic Area.

Great Burn Study Group also understands that much of this Geographic Area (Weitas) contains highly erosive soils and therefore should be closed to road building. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

IX-362. The Clearwater Forest should develop opportunities for motorized access in the Weitas Geographic Area.

More motorized access is needed so that the average forest visitor can view the scenic areas. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

FOREST HEALTH

Weitas Creek and Cayuse Creek are both historic for motorized access. We need to retain this access so that we can make sure the forest stays healthy. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 65)

HISTORIC ACCESS

All of these areas have historic motorized access and we need to keep all of it. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 123)

SITE-SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

The old logging road that goes from the road beyond the Weitas Guard Station to (the) ridge above Camp George and trails 167 and 164 with a little brushing and three creek crossings where the culverts have been pulled repaired can accommodate all-terrain vehicles. The trails 167 and 164, which are RS-2477 rights-of-way, need to be opened to all-terrain vehicles.

The Windy Ridge Trail by the most part is a very flat ridge and with out any work will allow plenty of space to move off the trail when meeting stock. Two loops can be made off of the ridge down trails 627 and 632 to road 555 below. These four trails are already open to single-track motorized access, which makes sense to allow all-terrain vehicles. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 138)

Trail users currently have to cross Weitas Creek to access trails #173, #660, and #103. This crossing is wide, deep, and swift. The crossing used to have a bridge. In order to make the crossing easier and safer, we recommend that the bridge be replaced sometime during the life of the revision. Replacing this bridge would help disperse use away from Weitas Creek. It would have the added benefit of improving water quality. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

SNOWMOBILES

This is a high use snowmobiling area with many groomed trails. It includes part of the Lolo Motorway and the Beaver Dam Saddle warming hut. This is a destination that draws snowmobilers from a broad area. While use is high, the area disperses and handles the use very well. Present management is working well for the snowmobiling community and we see no need for change. (Motorized Recreation, BOISE, ID – 4388)

USER CONFLICTS

I enjoy all of these areas on my motorcycle. In 21 years of use, I have never had a conflict with another user of seen any motorized caused harm to the ground. Motorized user groups are a lot more responsible than our Forest Service thinks. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 1164)

I ride my motorcycle here every year. This is a beautiful area with many well taken care of trails. I encounter trail bike riders working on these trails quite often. I also encounter Forest Service trail crews. (Never a conflict with anyone.) The people using this area would do anything to retain access. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 3775)

IX-363. The Clearwater Forest should manage motorized access in the Weitas Geographic Area.

No weeds were on the Weitas Trail until it was opened to 4-wheelers in the 1990s. Elk calving in Fish Creek should be a concern for motorized access, also in Weitas Creek. Both of these trails can be accessed in April - May. Elk are down in these drainages in the spring, and they act like cattle, not moving too far away-when you are on a horse. (One of my used-to-be-favorite places to go in the spring.) (Individual, WEIPPE, ID – 1121)

IX-364. The Clearwater Forest should continue to rent cabins and lookouts in the Weitas Geographic Area.

The Weitas Butte Lookout and the Liz Butte Cabin are available for rent. These facilities should remain available for rent through the (recreation) fee demo program. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

Liz Butte and other lookouts should be preserved and access roads kept open for motorized visitors. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-365. The Clearwater Forest should maintain roadless lands as roadless in the Weitas Geographic Area.

Maintain available roadless areas as roadless. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

Other roadless areas of the forest deserve to be protected, especially from the ever encroaching motorized uses. (Individual, MISSOULA, MT – 1133)

IX-366. The Clearwater Forest should recommend lands in the Weitas Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

Weitas Creek Proposed Wilderness - 1306 (Bighorn-Weitas) this area has, along lower Weitas Creek, low elevation, broad river valley country that is very rare to find in a roadless condition. Off-road vehicle abuse and use is destroying this area and should be stopped. Weitas Creek provides clean water for the North Fork Clearwater. Upper Cayuse Creek contains some of the largest stands of old growth left in the entire Clearwater basin. Reports of grizzly were gathered in the 1980s. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

We feel that many areas suitable for wilderness protection were not included, and these areas are detailed below: Weitas-Middle Lochsa: including the Bighorn Weitas, North Lochsa Slope and Weir Post Office Roadless Areas.

(I recommend) Weitas Creek (for) wilderness designation. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 137)

We support your current recommendations for wilderness. However, we suggest several additions. We believe that the areas below qualify for wilderness and we ask that you retain their wild and remote character. Weitas: The existing westslope and cutthroat trout habitat and wildlife habitat of this geographic area is best served by permanent protection as wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

The roadless lands within the Weitas Geographic Area should be recommended for wilderness designation by the Forest Service. Much of the Weitas area displays high natural erosion sensitivity . . . . The Cook Mountain Road should be closed to motorized use, due to erosion potential, and rehabilitated to a non-motorized trail within the proposed wilderness. The existing westlope and cutthroat trout habitat and wildlife habitat is best served by permanent protection as wilderness. . . . The area also contains large tracts of cedar and mixed mesic forests with high biological diversity (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

Why not recommend wilderness for Weitas eastern half (including Forth of July Creek) and especially in upper Weitas Creek? If the argument is the existing all-terrain vehicle usage prevents wilderness. I say declare a wilderness with some (heavily regulated) all-terrain vehicle use. They could be allowed on designated trails up to where Little Weitas Creek joins Weitas Creek. South and east of this point, they should be prohibited. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA – 3283)

Weitas Creek - 98,000 acres in Weitas Geographic Area, most of the lands that drain into Weitas Creek itself, not directly into the North Fork. Prime summer and winter range big-game habitat; prime cutthroat trout fishery; historic resources; low elevation forests and good representations of old growth forests. Cook Mountain Road should be closed to off-highway vehicle use, because of erosion and slide potential. High priority areas found throughout Weitas Creek drainage. After expansion of the Great Burn and Mallard-Larkins recommended wilderness, Weitas Creek should be a primary inclusion into the recommended

wilderness of the revised Clearwater forest plan. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1170)

The existing westslope and cutthroat trout habitat and wildlife habitat of this geographic area is best served by permanent protection as wilderness. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

Why not recommend wilderness for Weitas eastern half (including Forth of July Creek) and especially in upper Weitas Creek? If the argument is the existing ATV usage prevents wilderness. I say declare a wilderness with some (heavily regulated) ATV use. They could be allowed on designated trails up to where Little Weitas Creek joins Weitas Creek. South and east of this point, they should be prohibited. (Individual, SEATTLE, WA - 3283)

IX-367. The Clearwater Forest should recommend lands in the Weitas Geographic Area as research natural areas.

. . . Research natural area status for Hemlock Creek. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 137)

West North Fork Geographic Area

IX-368. The Clearwater Forest should modify the list of unique features in the West North Fork Geographic Area.

The Clarke Mountain off-highway vehicle trail system should be listed under the heading of "unique features." The system is unique for this area in that it was built cooperatively by the U.S. Forest Service and citizen volunteers with funding grants from Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. We are very proud of this accomplishment and think it should be recognized as an example of what can happen when the U.S. Forest Service works with and for the public. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

IX-369. The Clearwater Forest should modify the desired future condition for the West North Fork Geographic Area.

The desired future condition for summer and winter ranger should be sustained, high quality habitat, not sustainable. (State Government, Lewiston, ID – 3853)

IX-370. The Clearwater Forest should modify goals for the West North Fork Geographic Area.

"Manage fire to allow it to play an important role in the development of vegetation" is the goal to manage fire or to develop vegetation? (County Government, OROFINO, ID – 5387)

ACCESS

Under the heading of "proposed goals" we would like to see that an effort would be made to establish an expanded off-highway vehicle trail system, especially linking the Clarke Mountain area to Camp 60 and Sheep Mountain and on to a point near Aquarius Campground. As areas are already offered for primary non-motorized use, this geographic area should be set aside for primary motorized use. Current non-motorized routes could remain so. We agree that there is a demand for primitive motorized recreation. This should include single-track motorcycle trails, trails for under 50" off-highway vehicles and over 50" width vehicles. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

COASTAL DISJUNCT SPECIES

One of the overriding proposed goals here should be conservation of the coastal disjunct plants and habitat. Very little of this is left since Dworshak drowned 2/3 of this habitat and all that is left should be preserved. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 38)

IX-371. The Clearwater Forest has identified appropriate desired future conditions and goals for the West North Fork Geographic Area.

We are in general agreement with the proposed desired future condition (DFC) and goals described for this geographic area. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-372. The Clearwater Forest should consider specific guidelines for the West North Fork Geographic Area.

We recommend that prior to decommissioning roads in the geographic area, recreation travel opportunities for all-terrain vehicles, mountain bikes, or other alternative forms of

transportation should be considered as a guideline for the revised plans. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-373. The Clearwater Forest should conserve aquatic processes in the West North Fork Geographic Area.

Conserve aquatic processes in the North Fork, Clearwater River. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-374. The Clearwater Forest should protect wildlife security areas in the West North Fork Geographic Area.

Wildlife security areas need to be identified and protected. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IX-375. The Clearwater Forest should protect old-growth forests in the West North Fork Geographic Area.

Special efforts should be made to identify and protect the remaining old growth forests in this heavily logged area. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 3784)

IX-376. The Clearwater Forest should restore and develop lands in the West North Fork Geographic Area.

We need to restore these areas and we need to enter some of the roadless in these areas as the '87 plan stated to supply resources to the mills in the area. (Individual, KAMIAH, ID – 1741)

IX-377. The Clearwater Forest should designate lands in the West North Fork Geographic Area as suitable for timber production.

Lands that meet the factual suitability criteria A, steps 1-7, found in the regional timber suitability policy should be classified as suitable for timber production per rationale in our general comments. (Timber Industry, LEWISTON, ID – 1921)

IX-378. The Clearwater Forest should preserve recreation opportunities in the West North Fork Geographic Area.

FACILITIES

We encourage the Clearwater National Forest to keep the lookout available for rental use and keep the Washington Creek Campground available for recreationists. (State Government Agency/Elected Official/Association, BOISE, ID – 3868)

MOTORIZED RECREATION

This geographic area is another popular recreation destination. Blue Ribbon Coalition supports a recreation focus and encourages the Forest Service to avoid broad strategic decisions that would result in the closure of off-highway vehicle opportunity in the Clarke Mountain area. (Motorized Recreation, POCATELLO, ID – 4390)

An all-terrain vehicle loop can be obtained from the trail junction off of the Cold Springs Peak Trail to Mush Saddle. There are three areas that will need repairing or changed on the trail to accommodate all-terrain vehicles. This will create a great loop and also disperse all-terrain vehicle riders also. (Individual, OROFINO, ID – 138)

Specific routes we want to see remain open include: Indian Henry Trail 101 from road 710 to road 5371; trail 169 to trail 445 to Elizabeth Mountain and down to road 250; trail 600 from Washington Creek Campground to Elk Mountain. The Elk Mountain loop for over 50" vehicles including road 677, trail 603, and road 670. Work with Potlatch Corp. to preserve access for over 50" from Elk Mountain to Camp 60 via Moose Creek. All native surface roads and trails currently open should remain so to allow for primitive motorized use by high clearance, over 50" width vehicles. Some could be improved upon in such a manner to decrease impacts without destroying recreational appeal. An off-highway vehicle opportunity exists in or near the Siwash Research Natural Area (by) linking road 4800 from road 700 to trail 297 back to Isabella Landing. (Motorized Recreation, LEWISTON, ID – 4389)

We have assisted the North Fork Ranger District in providing a trailhead and all-terrain vehicle trails in the Clarke Mountain area. These recreation opportunities should be protected. (State Government, BOISE, ID – 3868)

IX-379. The Clearwater Forest should restrict motorized use in some areas of the West North Fork Geographic Area.

We also request that motorized activity be restricted in any inventoried roadless are and research natural area within the West North Fork Geographic Area. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT – 3841)

IX-380. The Clearwater Forest should preserve historic resources in the West North Fork Geographic Area.

Need to preserve historic structures, sites and history. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-381. The Clearwater Forest should modify management direction for roadless lands adjacent to the Aquarius Research Natural Area in the West North Fork Geographic Area.

The roadless area adjacent to the Aquarius Research Natural Area should be managed with the same objectives as the research natural area. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 38)

IX-382. The Clearwater Forest should recommend streams in the West North Fork Geographic Area for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Recommend the Little North Fork (all segments) for inclusion to the Wild and Scenic River System. (Preservation/Conservation, BOISE, ID – 1169)

IX-383. The Clearwater Forest should recommend lands in the West North Fork Geographic Area for wilderness designation.

Siwash Proposed Wilderness - 1303. This area contains steep terrain with lower elevation, coastal disjunct plant habitat. This rare ecosystem needs protection as most of it has been lost to logging, dam building and other development. (Preservation/Conservation, MOSCOW, ID – 3164)

IX-384. The Clearwater Forest should not recommend rivers in the West North Fork Geographic Area for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

No more wild and scenic rivers (are) needed. We need free-flowing streams that are not supervised by federal restrictions. (Individual, GRANGEVILLE, ID – 2082)

IX-385. The Clearwater Forest should recommend lands in the West North Fork Geographic Area for designation as a research natural area.

If not already afforded by the designation as a research natural area, we recommend special protections for those portions of the geographic area that support coastal disjunct plants, plants found only in this geographic area and on the Pacific coast. (State Government, LEWISTON, ID – 3853)

IX-386. The Clearwater Forest should protect research natural areas in the West North Fork Geographic Area.

Aquarius Research Natural Area should continue to be protected with the high diversity of aquatic and terrestrial species there. (Individual, MOSCOW, ID – 137)

We . . . request that motorized activity be restricted in any Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) and Research Natural Areas within the West North Fork Geographic Area. (Preservation/Conservation, MISSOULA, MT - 3841)

Appendices

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Appendix A

Supporting Information

The following is a list names of those who submitted supporting information followed by the name or description of the information provided.

Capital Trail Vehicle Association	Checklist of Issues Affecting Motorized Recreation
Clearwater Elk Recovery Team	Elk Collaborative Final Report (2003-2004)
Eastman, Eugene & Mollie A.	Appendix: Comments by Forest Service Employees
Forest Econ Inc.	Southwest Idaho Timber Economy Changes Affecting Boise, Payette & Sawtooth National Forests' Planning
Forest Econ Inc.	Forest Planning Background Analysis for the Boise, Payette & Sawtooth National Forests Predicted Wood Products Sector Responses to Forest Service Planning Alternatives in Southwestern and South-Central Idaho
Friends of the Clearwater	North Central Idaho Ancient/Remnant Western Red Cedar Forest Conservation Strategy
Friends of the Clearwater The Ecology Center Alliance for the Wild Rockies	Selway-Bitterroot General Management Direction
Friends of the Clearwater The Ecology Center Alliance for the Wild Rockies	Comments to Proposed Action
Friends of the Clearwater The Ecology Center Alliance for the Wild Rockies	Bibliography
George, Jean	Excerpts from Chief Seattle's Vision: "How Can One Sell the Air?"
Gullette, Michael	Re: President's Executive Order Issued August 26, 2004
Ibsen, Dirk	Suggested Forest Plan Management Theme With Map
Idaho Conservation League	Map and List of Recommended Wilderness

Idaho County Commissioners	RS 2477 Map
Irestone, Charles	12-Minute Video of the Great Burn Proposed Wilderness Depicting Abuse of the Area
Moore, Bud	Letter to Regional Forester Torheim 9/13/78
Moore, Bud	Letter to Great Burn Study Group 3/11/97
Morrow, Donald F.	Newspaper Article from August 13, 2004 Photo of Tee-Pee Burner
Morrow, Donald F.	Photo of Magruder Road After a Fire in 2002
Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee	Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit, Vol. II. Clearwater River Subbasin.
The Wilderness Society	Restoring Forests and Reducing Fire Danger in the Intermountain West with Thinning and Fire
The Wilderness Society	The Community Protection Zone: Defending Houses and Communities from the Threat of Forest Fire
The Wilderness Society	The Wildland Fire Challenge: Focus on Reliable Data, Community Protection and Ecological Restoration
The Wilderness Society	Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan
The Wilderness Society	A Citizen's Call for Ecological Forest Restoration: Forest Restoration Principles and Criteria
The Wilderness Society	Roadless Areas: The Missing Link in Conservation
The Wilderness Society	Landscape Connectivity: An Essential Element of Land Management
The Wilderness Society	Review of the Clearwater National Forest Road Analysis
The Wilderness Society	An Integrated GIS and Political Ecology Approach to Conservation Geography on National Forests in Idaho
The Wilderness Society	Sensitive Species by Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests' Geographic Areas
The Wilderness Society	Motorized Access on Montana's Rocky Mountain Front

The Wilderness Society	Maps • Historic Salmonid Distribution • Current Salmonid Distribution • Wilderness Recommendations • Aquatic Priority Rating • Summer Steelhead Habitat • Bull Trout Habitat • Westslope Cutthroat Habitat • Chinook Salmon Habitat • Map 1: Community Fire Planning Zone • Map 2: Restoration Planning Zone • Map 3: Fire Use Emphasis Zone • Sensitive Species Status • Road Density • Distance to Roads • Important Roadless Habitat Areas • Natural Erosion Sensitivity
The Wilderness Society	Coarse Filter – Fine Filter Approach for Idaho
The Wilderness Society	Map: Conservation Assessment Results

Appendix B

Coding Structure

Presented below are lists of categories or "codes" used to sort public comments regarding the Proposed Action for the revision of forest plans for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests.

Letter Attribution Codes

Coders identified a variety of demographic information in a series of boxes stamped across the top of all responses.

Mail Identification

Mail identification is a unique respondent number assigned in the content analysis database. It is linked to the respondent's address. This provides basic demographic information as well as enables the team to generate a mailing list.

Organization Type

The organization type code identifies a specific type of organization, association, agency, elected official or individual. The following are standard organization types:

Government Agency/Elected Officials

F	Federal Agency/Elected Official
N	International Government/Association
S	State Government Agency/Elected Official/Association
C	County Government Agency/Elected Official/Association
T	Town/City Government Agency/Elected Official/Association
Q	Indian Government/Elected Official/Agency (including employees)

Interest Groups (Includes legal representatives of interest groups)

A	Agriculture Industry or Associations
B	Business (business owner or representative, chamber of commerce)
D	Place-based Group (e.g. homeowner's association, planning cooperative)
E	Government Employee/Union
G	Domestic Livestock Industry (including permittees)
H	Consultants/Legal Representatives
I	Individual (unaffiliated, unknown or unidentifiable)
J	Civic Group (Kiwanis, Elks, etc.)
K	Special-Use Permittee (recreation homes, outfitter guides)
L	Timber or Woods Products Industry or Associations
M	Mining Industry/Association (locatable)
O	Oil, Natural Gas, Coal or Pipeline Industry (leasable)
P	Preservation/Conservation
R	Recreational (non-specific)
U	Utility Group (water, electric, gas)
V	Professional Society
W	Academic

X	Conservation District
Y	Other or Unidentified Organization
Z	Multiple-Use or Land Rights Organization

Optional Organization Codes

AR	Animal Rights
CF	Commercial Fishing
CH	Church/Religious Group
EO	Extension Office (University)
AE	Agency Employee (analyzed separately)
HT	Hunting/Trapping Industry or Organization
KS	Special Use; Ski Industry (operators, management, interest group)
LO	Private Landowner
MN	Miners (unspecified)
PA	Professional Association/Society
QQ	Tribal Non-governmental Organization/Tribal Member
RB	Mechanized Recreation (bicycling)
RC	Recreation/Conservation Organization (Trout Unlimited, Elk
RM	Motorized Recreation (4x4, off-highway vehicle, snowmobiling)
RN	Non-motorized/Non-mechanized Recreation (hiking, horse)
SF	Small Farms/Farmers
XX	Regional/Other Governmental Agency (multi-jurisdictional)

Signatures

The total number of signatures is recorded in this box. If no signature is present or the response is anonymous, it is counted as one.

Response Type

1	Letter
2	Form or Letter Generator
3	Resolution
4	Action Alert
5	Transcript
6	Contact Form
7	Public Meeting Transcript
8	Public Meeting/Workshop Notes
9	Workshop Notes (other than public meeting)
10	Web-based comments
11	Petition

Delivery Type

E	E-mail
F	Fax
H	Hand-delivered or Oral Testimony
M	U.S. Mail or Commercial Carrier
T	Telephone
U	Unknown

Early Attention

A red flag is placed on the right side of the copy.

1	Threat of Harm
2	Notice of Appeal or Litigation
3	Freedom of Information Request
4	Proposal for New Alternative(s)
5	Requires Detailed Review
6	Government Entities
7	Requests Public Hearing
8	Requests Mailing Address be Withheld
5a	Provides Extensive Technical Edits
5m	Maps Attached
6a	Requests Cooperating Agency Status

User Type

A	Local Residents (Latah, Lewis, Clearwater, Idaho or Nez Perce County)
X	Out-of-Area Respondent

Form Letter

2	Generated by Friends of the Clearwater
3	Generated by Idaho Conservation League
4	Generated by The Wilderness Society
5	Letters Regarding The Great Burn
6	Letters Regarding Off-highway Vehicles

Request for Information

A blue flag is placed on the right side of the letter.

Comment Extension

A yellow flag is placed on the right side of the letter.

Action Codes

Actual text in the body of the letter was coded based on the content. The first code assigned was the **action code**. It was applied to indicate the type of action the writer desired. The second codeassigned was the **rationale code**. It related to why an action was requested. A third code, the **site-specific code**, indicated where commenters wanted the action to be taken.

DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES
PRCSS 10000-19999

10000 – Decisionmaking process and methods
- 10100 – Role/Authority
- 10200 – Coordination/Consultation with Other Agencies
- 10300 – Coordination/Consultation with Tribes
- 10400 – Coordination with Forest Service Units
- 10500 – Influences on Decisionmaking

11000 – Decisionmaking Philosophy (*How*, not *what*, to decide)
- 11100 – Preservation ("Hands Off")
- 11200 – Multiple-Use Emphasis
- 11300 – Ecosystems Emphasis
- 11400 – Adaptive Management Emphasis
- 11500 – Use of Public Comment (Vote, Majority, Forms)

12000 – Public Involvement
- 12100 – Agency Communication
  - 12110 – Adequacy/Availability of Information
  - 12120 – Public Meetings/Hearings
  - 12130 – Outreach/Education
  - 12140 – Collaboration/Partnerships
- 12200 – Adequacy of Comment Period
- 12300 – Adequacy of Entire Timeframe

13000 – Use of Science; Best Avail. Science

14000 – Agency Organization, Funding and Staffing
- 14100 – Funding, General
  - 14110 – Funding to Implement (Proposed Action & Alternatives)
  - 14120 – Fees (Recreation Fee Demo use RECRE codes)
- 14200 – Staffing General
  - 14210 – Staff Training, Education
  - 14220 – Volunteers

15000 – Forest Plan Implementation

ALTERNATIVES AND EIS (REVISION DOCUMENTS)
ALTER 20000-24999

20000 – Purpose and Need for Proposed Action
- 20100 – Need for an EIS, EA, Planning Rule

21000 – Documents (Analysis Management Situation, Social Assessment, Notice of Intent, Proposed Action, Draft Forest Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement)
- 21100 – Revision topics that should/should not be addressed
- 21200 – Technical and Editorial (spelling, grammar, definitions, consistency)

22000 – Plan Adequacy
- 22100 – Plan Analysis (Data, Modeling)
- 22200 – Cumulative Effects
- 22300 – Monitoring and Inventory
- 22400 – Standards and Guidelines (Multiple Uses)
- 22500 – Forest Plan Amendment

23000 – Desired Conditions
- 23100 – Goals
- 23200 – Objectives

23300 – Standards and Guidelines
23400 – Use and Activities
24000 – Geographic Areas
25000 – Alternatives General
25100 – Alternative Development/Method/Range
26000 – Site Specific Alternatives

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
NRMGT 30000-39999
30000 – Area Management General/Multiple
30100 (includes general ecological/enviromental/resources. “Protect,” “Save,” “Don’t Destroy,” etc. when lacking a more specific mgmt. recommendation)
30200 (includes general ecological/enviromental/resources: “Develop,” “Manage,” “Use,” when lacking a more specific mgmt recommendation)
30300 – Monitoring, Inventories, Mapping, GIS
30400 – Enforcement (for recreation enforcement see RECRE 50300)
30500 – Analysis (usually will refer to affected resources)
31000 – Physical Elements
31100 – Water/Watershed Management
31110 – Riparian Areas
31120 – Dams and river/stream flow
31130 – Municipal watersheds
31140 – Watershed restoration
31200 – Soils Management
31210 – Slope Stability/Landslides Management
31220 – Erosion Control
31300 – Visual Resources Management
32000 – Biological Elements
32100 – Species Viability Management
32200 – Wildlife/Fish Management
32210 – Breeding Programs, Stocking, Reintroductions
32220 – Harvest Levels and Methods
32230 – Wildlife Structures (ponds, waterholes, barriers)
32240 – Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive, and Regional Forester Listed Species (re-intro./de-list comments)
32250 – Management Indicator Species
32260 – Habitat
33000 – Vegetation Management
33100 – Active Treatment Methods
33110 – Fire (vegetation management tool)
33120 – Pesticides and Herbicides
33200 – Cultivation (Planting, Seeding)
33300 – Habitat Improvement
33310 – Three-Pronged approach
33400 – Maintenance
33500 – Noxious, Non-Native, Invasive Weeds Mgt. General
33510 – Active Treatment Methods
33600 – Native Plants
33700 – Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive, and Regional Forester Listed Species (re-intro./de-list comments)
34000 – Fire and Fuels Management
34100 – Wildland Fires
34200 – Role of Fire in Ecosystems
34300 – Fire Plans
34310 – Fire Use (resource benefit)
34400 – Fuels Reduction
34410 – Prescribed Fire
34420 – Mechanical Thinning

34500 – Smoke Management
34600 – Wildland/Urban Interface
35000 – Timber Resource Management
35100 – Suitability Determinations
35200 – Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ)
35300 – Harvest Levels (Actual)
35400 – Harvest Methods
35500 – Salvage Logging
35600 – Restoration
35700 – Firewood/Christmas Trees
36000 – Domestic Livestock Management
36100 – Grazing Management
36200 – Fences and other structures
37000 – Mining and Mineral Exploration
37100 – Locatable (minerals, metals)
37200 – Recreational Suction Dredging
37300 – Processes, Methods, Waste Treatment/Disposal
37400 – Land Restoration, Reclamation, Bonding
37500 – Alternative Energy Sources, Hydroelectric Development
38000 – Other Activities Mgmt (Multiple, Special Uses)
38010 – Permitting (except recreation permits)
38020 – Valid Existing Rights
38030 – Subsidies, Commodity Valuations, or Valuation Methods
38100 – Special Forest Products Collection (mushrooms, berries, bear grass, etc.)
38200 – Heritage Resources Management
38300 – Communication Sites and Facilities
38400 – Utility Corridors
38500 – Research

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT
TRANS 40000-44999
40000 –Transportation System Mgmt (and general access, multiple or if no other topic specified)
40100 – Rights-Of-Way
40200 – Roads Analysis (Designations, Mapping, Inventory)
41000 – Roads Management General
41100 – Road Construction, Reconstruction
41200 – Road Maintenance
41300 – Road Removal/Decommissioning (for closures and use code to RECRE)
41400 – Non-System and User Created roads
42000 – Trails Management General
42100 – Trails Construction, Reconstruction
42200 – Loop Trails
42300 – Trails Maintenance
42400 – Trails Removal/Decommissioning
42500 – Non-System and User Created trails
43000 – Road/Trail Structures: Bridges/Culverts/Stream-crossings/Gates/Safety-barriers/Signs/Etc.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT
RECRE 50000-59999
50000 – Recreation, Access, and Travel Management General
50100 – Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (incl. “designate more of this”, “less of that,” group size, etc.)
50200 – Site specific suggestions
50300 – Enforcement Issues (includes illegal activities)
51000 – Motorized Recreation General
51100 – ATV/OHVs - General

51110 – Restrict ATV/OHV's (General)
51120 – Allow ATV/OHV's
51200 – Motorcycles/ 2 Wheel Vehicles
51300 – Watercraft (motorized)
51400 – Open or Close Roads/Areas
51410 – Closed unless posted open/vice versa
51420 – Seasonal closures or limits
52000 – Non-Motorized Recreation General
52100 – Hiking
52200 – Backpacking
52300 – Equestrian/Pack Animals (burros, llamas, goats)

53000 – Developed Recreation/Rec. Facilities
53100 – Campgrounds/Picnic Areas
53200 – Launch sites (Rafts, kayaks, canoes)
54000 – Dispersed Recreation
54100 – Mechanized Recreation (road/mountain biking)
54200 – Hunting (target shooting)
54300 – Dispersed Camping
54400 – Fishing
54500 – Water Sports (incl. canoeing, kayaking, rafting)
54600 – Forest Service rental cabins/look outs
55000 – Winter Recreation
55100 – Skiing (commercial ski areas)
55200 – Skiing (backcountry, cross-country, telemark)
55300 – Snow-Shoeing
55400 – Snowmobiling
56000 – Trailheads, Signs, and Parking
57000 – Fee Demonstration Project and User Fees (Support or Non-Support)
58000 – Recreation Permitting General
58100 – Commercial
58200 – Non-commercial
59000 – User Education, General/Multiple
59100 – Environmental Education/Interpretation

LANDS AND SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS
LANDS 60000-69999
60000 – Public Land Ownership/Boundaries
61000 – Land Acquisition and Exchanges
61100 – Appraisals and Valuation
62000 – Special Land Designations
62010 – Site Specific Suggestions
62100 – Roadless Areas
62110 – EVALUATION/Inventories
62200 – Wild and Scenic Rivers
62300 – Wilderness General
62310 – Proposed, Recommended, Study
62320 – Designated Wilderness
62400 – Research Natural Areas
62500 – National Historic Trails
62600 – National Historic Landmarks
62700 – National Scenic Byways

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
SOCEC 70000 – 79999
70000 – Social/Economic Action or Activities

ATTACHMENTS
ATTMT – 99999 (Attachment)

Rationale Codes

001 – No affected resource/reason
002 – Multiple Affected Resources

010 – Persons and Groups
- 020 – Government
  - 022 – President/Executive Branch
  - 023 – Agency (Forest Service)
  - 024 – Clearwater/Nez Perce National Forest
  - 025 – NOAA Fisheries and Fish and Wildlife Service
  - 026 – Other Federal Agencies
  - 027 – Legislative Branch (Congress)
  - 028 – Judicial Branch (Courts)
  - 029 – State, County, and Municipal Governments
- 030 – Agency Funding
- 040 – Forest Plan Revision Process
- 050 – American Indians/Tribes
- 060 – Interest Groups
  - 062 – Environmental Groups
  - 063 – Multiple Use/ Wise Use Groups
  - 064 – Recreation Groups
  - 065 – Industry/Business Groups (econ. issues to 900+)
  - 066 – Political Parties
- 070 – General Public
  - 072 – Local Citizens/Communities
  - 073 – Nationwide Citizens/Communities

100 – Laws, Policies
- 105 – Law Enforcement
- 110 – Democracy
- 120 – Federal, General/Multiple
  - 121 – Constitution
  - 122 – Federalism, States' Rights
  - 123 – Individual Rights, Public Own Fed Lands
  - 124 – General Welfare, Public Good, Public Interest
- 130 – Federal Laws
  - 131 – National Environmental Policy Act
  - 132 – National Forest Management Act
  - 134 – Endangered Species Act
  - 136 – Administrative Procedures Act
  - 137 – Clean Water Act
  - 138 – Wilderness Act
- 140 – Court decisions (past or pending)
- 150 – Tribal Treaties, Policies, and Plans
- 160 – Agency Rules, Plans, etc.
- 170 – Rules, Plans, etc. of Other Federal Agencies
- 180 – Rules, Plans, etc. of States
- 190 – State, County or Municipal Laws, Policies, Etc.

200 – Natural Environment, General/Multiple ("national treasure," "national heritage," "pristine areas")
- 204 – Environmental Quality and Ecosystem Integrity
- 206 – Inherent worth of the environment
  apart from human benefits/use/enjoyment/need)
- 208 – Forest Health
- 220 – Physical Elements, General/Multiple

230 – Soils and Geology
232 – Soil (Productivity, Disturbance, Erosion, Compaction)
233 – Caves Resources
234 – Minerals
235 – Paleontological Resources
240 – Water Resources
242 – Surface Water
243 – Groundwater
244 – Riparian Areas and Wetlands
245 – Water Quantity
246 – Water Quality
247 – Watershed Condition
248 – Municipal Watersheds
250 – Air Quality
260 – Climate, Weather, and Atmospheric Processes
270 – Fire and Risk of Fire
272 – Wildland Urban Interface

300 – Biological Elements General/Multiple Biological Resources
310 – Biodiversity, Extinctions
320 – Genetic Diversity
330 – Ecosystem/Habitat Composition and Function
332 – Fragmentation, Perforation, and Connectivity
333 – Disturbance Regimes
334 – Habitat/Vegetation Composition
340 – Species of Special Concern (T&E, Sensitive)
342 – Management Indicator Species
350 – Wildlife/Fish, General/Multiple
360 – Vegetation, General/Multiple
362 – Noxious weeds
363 – Old Growth/Old Forest

400 – Facilities, Infrastructure
410 – Communication Sites and Facilities
420 – Hydroelectric Developments
430 – Utility Corridors
440 – Research and Educational Facilities
450 – Road (Physical)
460 – Trail (Physical)

500 – Recreation: General/Multiple/Other
510 – User Conflicts
520 – Recreational Enjoyment
530 – Motorized Recreation
540 – Non-Motorized Recreation

600 – Lands/Landforms
610 – Potential for Special Designation
612 – Roadless Areas
614 – Recommended Wilderness
620 – Designations
622 – Wilderness
624 – Wild and Scenic Rivers
626 – Research Natural Areas
630 – Other/Adjacent Federal Lands (parks, military)
640 – Adjacent State Lands
650 – Private Property/Inholdings
660 – Tribal Lands/Reservations

700 – Social Conditions/Values General (Including Socio-Economic)

- 710 – Quality of Life (tradition, traditional way of life)
  - 711 – Value to Individuals, Families, Seniors, Disabled, etc.
  - 712 – Spiritual Values, Solitude
  - 713 – Scenery, Visual Resources
  - 714 – Noise
  - 715 – Health and Safety
- 720 – Trust and Credibility
- 730 – Anthropological Heritage and Cultural Resources
  - 732 – National Historic Trails
  - 734 – National Historic Landmarks
- 740 – Equity, Justice
  - 742 – Future Generations, Legacy Values
  - 743 – Environmental Justice
  - 744 – Class and Income Equity
- 750 – International: Transfer of Effects or Role Model
- 760 – American Indian Values/Traditions
- 770 – Demographics
  - 772 – Population, Community Structure and Stability
  - 773 – Urbanization and Development
- 780 – Education (includes environmental education)

800 – Economic Conditions and Values, General/Multiple

- 810 – Economic Role of Agency-Admin. Lands/Resources
- 812 – International
- 814 – US
- 816 – Tribal
- 818 – State/Regional/Local economy
- 820 – Employment/Jobs
- 822 – Property Values
- 824 – Tax Base and Payments to States, Counties, etc.
- 840 – Business Viability, Profits, Profit Motive
  - 842 – Logging Industry
  - 844 – Outfitting/Guiding Industry
  - 845 – Grazing Industry
  - 846 – Mining Industry
- 860 – Net Public Benefit and Agency Accounting
  - 862 – Non-Market Products/Services/Costs/Externalities
    - 863 – Tax Dollars

Site-Specific Codes

CD	Cedars-Deception Geographic Area
CLW	Clearwater National Forest
CW	Coolwater Geographic Area
EC	Elk Creek Geographic Area
FCW	Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness
GB	Great Burn Geographic Area
GHW	Gospel-Hump Wilderness
LC	Lolo Creek Geographic Area
LP	Lolo Pass Geographic Area
LSE	Lower Salmon East Geographic Area
LSW	Lower Salmon West Geographic Area
LWL	Lowell Geographic Area
MC	Moose-Cayuse Geographic Area
MCR	Meadow Creek Geographic Area
MFC	Middle Fork Clearwater
MJ	Mallard-Jersey Geographic Area
ML	Middle Lochsa Geographic Area
MM	Mallard-Meadow Geographic Area
NEZ	Nez Perce National Forest
PAR	Palouse River Geographic Area
PM	Pot Mountain Geographic Area
POR	Potlatch River Geographic Area
RR	Red River Geographic Area
SBW	Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness
SF	Selway Front Geographic Area
SFC	South Fork Clearwater Geographic Area
UL	Upper Lochsa Geographic Area
WNF	West North Fork Geographic Area
WTS	Weitas Geographic Area
CNP	Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests
NS	None Specified

Appendix C

Demographics

The information in this report is based on 11,018 total responses, of which 289 were original responses and eleven were petitions. The remaining responses were organized response (form) letters and duplicate submissions. Each organized response campaign submission was noted even when there were duplicate submissions by the same person.

Introduction

Demographic analysis presents an overall picture of respondents: where they live, their general affiliation to various organizations or government agencies and the manner in which they respond. The database contains public comment organized under subject categories (see Appendix B) and demographic information. This kind of database can be used to isolate specific combinations of information about public comment. For example, a report can show public comment from certain geographic locations or show comments associated with certain types of organizations. Thus demographic coding, combined with comment coding, allows managers to use the database to focus on specific areas of public concern linked to geographic area, organizational affiliations and response format.

It is important to recognize that the consideration of public comment is not a vote-counting process in which the outcome is determined by the majority opinion. Relative depth of feeling and interest among the public can serve to provide a general context for decision-making. However, it is the appropriateness, specificity and factual accuracy of comment content that serves to provide the basis for modifications to planning documents and decisions. Further, because respondents are self-selected, they do not constitute a random or representative public sample. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) encourages all interested parties to submit comment as often as they wish regardless of age, citizenship or eligibility to vote. Respondents may therefore include businesses, people from other countries, children and people who submit multiple responses. Therefore, caution should be used when interpreting the numbers and values of respondents, it does not necessarily reveal the desires of society as a whole. All input is considered, and the analysis team attempts to capture all relevant public concerns in the analysis process.

The analysis team identifies several categories for demographic purposes. **Responses** are the individual letters, postcards, e-mails, petitions, comment forms and faxes received. **Respondents** are the individual response writers. Some letters had multiple respondents. To be considered a respondent, an individual needed to provide a separate mailing address.

In the case of this analysis, the forests received 3908 responses submitted by 3941 respondents. (These numbers do not include the duplicate submissions.) Signatures refer to the number of people who signed a response. A number of comments were signed by more than one individual. There are many more signatures (4250) than either responses or respondents.

Geographic Representation

Geographic representation is tracked for each response. For petitions, geographic representation is not tracked for each individual signature. Instead, petition signatures are all assigned to the state of the person or organization originating the petition.

Table C-1 displays, by origin, the number of responses and signatures received from individual respondents. Responses were received from 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Table C-1. Number of Responses and Signatures by Origin

State	Number of Respondents	Number of Signatures
Alabama	22	22
Alaska	16	16
Arizona	99	99
Arkansas	25	25
California	570	575
Colorado	149	150
Connecticut	39	39
Delaware	5	5
District of Columbia	8	10
Florida	198	199
Georgia	57	57
Hawaii	17	17
Idaho	264	535
Illinois	169	169
Indiana	51	52
Iowa	27	27
Kansas	11	11
Kentucky	18	18
Louisiana	12	12
Maine	22	23
Maryland	58	59
Massachusetts	105	106
Michigan	94	94
Minnesota	81	82
Mississippi	4	4
Missouri	52	52
Montana	104	114
Nebraska	13	13
Nevada	36	37
New Hampshire	39	39
New Jersey	79	79
New Mexico	58	59
New York	237	237
North Carolina	86	86
North Dakota	5	5

State	Number of Respondents	Number of Signatures
Ohio	133	136
Oklahoma	9	9
Oregon	118	120
Pennsylvania	155	155
Puerto Rico	3	3
Rhode Island	12	12
South Carolina	23	23
South Dakota	3	3
Tennessee	56	56
Texas	158	158
Utah	23	25
Vermont	14	14
Virginia	71	71
Washington	209	209
West Virginia	13	13
Wisconsin	68	68
Wyoming	9	9
State data not provided	34	37
Totals	**3941**	**4250**

Organizational Affiliation

Organizational affiliation is tracked for each response. Table C-2 displays, by organization type, the number of responses and signatures for each organizational type. "Individuals" are respondents who wrote on behalf of themselves or whose affiliation was unstated or unclear.

Table C-2. Number of Responses and Signatures by Organization Type

Organization Type	Number of Respondents	*Number of Signatures*
Agriculture Industry/Associations	1	*1*
Business	4	*4*
Civic Groups	1	*1*
County Government/Association	3	*5*
Domestic Livestock Industry	1	*1*
Federal Agency/Elected Official	6	*8*
Hunting/Trapping Industry/Organization	1	*1*
Individual	3855	*4147*
Mechanized Recreation	1	*1*
Motorized Recreation	8	*8*
Non-Motorized/Non-Mechanized Recreation	2	*2*
Place-Based Groups	4	*4*
Preservation/Conservation	25	*35*
Recreational	5	*5*
Special-Use	1	*1*
State Government/Association	4	*4*
Timber Industry/Associations	12	*15*
Town/City Government/Elected Official/Association	1	*1*
Tribal Government/Elected Official/Agency	6	*6*
Totals	***3941***	***4250***

Response, Delivery and User Types

Tracking response, delivery and user types are part of the content analysis process. The public uses a variety of response formats including individual letters, organized response campaign (or form) letters, petitions and a comment form designed by the revision team and available for public use. These responses may be submitted in multiple ways: by letter, fax, e-mail, telephone or in person. Tracking response format and method of delivery allows better preparation for what future projects may bring in terms of number of responses, human resource needs and future computer system needs.

Table C-3 displays, by response format, the number of responses and signatures. The majority of responses received were organized response campaign letters.

Table C-3. Number of Responses and Signatures by Response Format

Response Type	Number of Responses	Number of Respondents	Number of Signatures
Organized Response Campaign	3608	3640	3687
Letter	258	258	282
Petition	11	11	248
Public Comment Form	31	31	31
Totals	**3908**	**3941**	**4250**

Table C-4 displays, by delivery type, the number of responses and signatures. The majority of responses received were by email.

Table C-4. Number of Responses and Signatures by Delivery Type

Delivery Type	Number of Responses	Number of Respondents	Number of Signatures
Email	3650	3656	3683
Fax	27	27	32
Hand-Delivered/Oral Testimony	10	10	10
Telephone	1	1	1
US Mail or Commercial Carrier	220	247	524
Totals	**3908**	**3941**	**4250**

Table C-5 displays, by user type, the number of responses and signatures received from "local" respondents and respondents out of the local area.

The local area included respondents from the five Idaho counties adjacent to, near or part of the land base of the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests: Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce. All other responses came from respondents outside the five-county area.

Table C-5. Number of Responses and Signatures by User Type

User Type	Number of Responses	Number of Respondents	Number of Signatures
Respondents From Five-County Local Area	182	209	479
Respondents From Outside Local Area	3726	3732	3771
Totals	**3908**	**3941**	**4250**

Appendix D

Organized Response Report

Organized responses represent the majority of total responses received during the public comment period on the Draft Forest Plan Proposed Action for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests.

An organized response campaign is defined as five or more responses received from distinct individuals but containing identical content. Once an organized response campaign letter is identified, a "master" is entered into the database with all of the content information. All responses with matching text are then linked to this master within the database with a designated number. Any additional text in a response is also coded and the information entered into the database in addition to the content of the master response. Identical responses from four or fewer respondents are entered as individual letters.

Organized responses are identified with a number. Table D-1 presents the total number received of each form and summarizes the concerns found in each.

Table D-1. Organized Response Campaigns (Form Letters)

Form Number	Responses Received	Concerns
Form 2	7	• I strongly urge you to protect all the natural resources on the Forests by having strong standards for water quality, limiting motorized use to roads only, not cutting old growth forests and restoring habitat for wildlife. My reasons for protecting public lands include the need for biological integrity to ensure the sustainability of our living forest and to provide a quality environment for wildlife and people • Please protect all roadless areas from development and motors.
Form 3	13	• Protect all roadless areas from harmful development, such as road building and logging. • Two specific areas under direct threat deserve mention: the Meadow Creek and Weitas Roadless Areas. If you're familiar with these areas, ask the Forest Service to ensure that they remain unspoiled for future generations. • Restrict motorized recreation in Recommended Wilderness Areas and sensitive wildlife habitat. • Expand the areas where you can enjoy freedom from the whine of engines and exhaust. • Ensure that fish and wildlife have the habitat they need to survive. • Protect the Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce Trails from overuse and development.

Form Number	Responses Received	Concerns
Form 4	3488	• I applaud the progress the Forest Service has made in recent years toward returning fire to its natural role in the Clearwater and Nez Perce landscape. Please continue and expand that work. • I believe the following areas are fully deserving of permanent wilderness protection and I urge you to recommend them to the Congress: Mallard-Meadow, Great Burn, Moose-Cayuse, Weitas, Upper Lochsa and Meadow Creek. • I urge you to close recommended wilderness areas to them (OHVs) to maintain the areas' wilderness characteristics and nature. • ORVs should be allowed only where a sound scientific assessment shows that they do not harm watersheds by increasing erosion, do not disrupt wildlife habitat, do not contribute to exotic weed infestations that damage native plant communities and do not conflict with other forest recreationists. • Please maintain in a roadless condition all 1.5 million acres of lands on these two forests that are now roadless. They provide habitat for many rare and sensitive species and also contain some of the best remaining stands of old growth forest in the Northern Rockies. Kept roadless, these areas will continue to function as healthy forests, providing clean water, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities for generations to come. • Please move aggressively to manage off-road vehicle (ORV) use on these two forests. Please limit ORV use to signed, designated routes only, prohibit ORV use on all user-created routes and eliminate all cross-country ORV travel.
Form 5	54	• Moose-Cayuse, Weitas, Mallard Meadow and Upper Lochsa deserve inclusion in the proposed wilderness. • I request a forest wide standard to protect and manage remaining forest trails for traditional non-motorized uses. • I support wilderness designation for the Great Burn. I support this because I want to hike in places that are unspoiled by roads, logging, mining and off-road vehicles. When I can no longer hike these places, I can continue to take great comfort knowing they remain unspoiled and suitable habitat for wildlife. I would urge you to include Fish Lake and Lake Creek corridor in the proposed Great Burn wilderness. • I urge the Clearwater to leave roadless areas roadless. • I would hope and urge the Forest Service to continue protecting sensitive wildlife habitat and fisheries, especially for Bull Trout, Lynx and Wolverine.

Form Number	Responses Received	Concerns
Form 6	57	• Consider looking to OHV groups for assistance in identifying opportunities for OHV recreation. • Develop management alternatives that allow for proactive OHV management. All alternatives should include specific provisions to mark, map and maintain existing OHV opportunities. All alternatives should include instructions to engage in cooperative management with OHV groups and individuals. Alternatives should include areas where OHV trails can be constructed and maintained when demand increases. A planning team would look for management alternatives that provide for mitigation instead of closure. Options other than closure should be emphasized in each alternative. I would like to see alternatives, or management guidance, directives etc., that require closure as the first and only option when resource impacts are identified should be avoided. • I would like to see the Forest Service recognize that providing for OHV use and protecting the environment means fully utilizing the inventory of existing roads and trails. The public wants the existing roads and trails left open to vehicle use. The existing network of roads and trails should be considered an inventory with which to develop recreational trail systems. • The public is very supportive of the use of volunteers in the motorized OHV program. Volunteering helps to instill a sense of ownership and pride within the motorized OHV community and promotes motorized OHV use. Volunteers are an excellent resource to help in the education of the public, in trail design and maintenance, and in monitoring and patrolling for protection. However, to have a successful volunteer program requires a serious and continuous commitment in Forest management. • There is an increasing demand for OHV recreation opportunities on public lands and National Forests. This growing OHV popularity is evidenced by the fact that recreational enthusiasts are buying OHVs at the rate of 1,500 units per day nation wide, with nearly one third of them doing so as first time buyers. I would like to see the FS provide for increased OHV recreation opportunities to meet current and anticipated demand.
Totals	**3608**	
Form 6 + Petition	11	In eleven instances, individuals submitted a form 6 letter and attached a statement requesting access to national forests. It was then signed by a number of individuals, most of whom did not provide mailing addresses. These were counted as petitions.

Appendix E

List of Preparers

This list includes the names of the individuals and area of contribution they made toward the completion of the analysis of public comment for this Clearwater-Nez Perce content analysis report.

Project Coordinators

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