AMENDMENT #1

USDA Forest Service

Administrative Action Memo

Amendment of the Bitterroot, Boise, Challis, Nez Perce, Payette and Salmon National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans and the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness Management Plan

Custer, Idaho, Lemhi and Valley Counties
State of Idaho

I. Administrative Action

This administrative action is to amend the Frank Church--River of No Return (FC--RONR) Wilderness Management Plan and the Bitterroot, Boise, Challis, Nez Perce, Payette and Salmon National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans to be consistent with the FC--RONR Wilderness agreement that is attached as Appendix A. The amendment of the FC--RONR Wilderness Management Plan changes wording in the plan related to reducing the storage of items and removal of plumbing fixtures from the Wilderness. The amendment only modifies the schedule of implementation and does not change the goals, objectives, standards or guidelines of the plan.

This administrative action incorporates into the appropriate National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and the FC--RONR Wilderness Management Plan certain administrative guidance contained in the June 4, 1990, FC--RONR Wilderness Agreement between the Chief of the Forest Service and the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association.

II. Background

The June 4, 1990, FC--RONR Wilderness Agreement is pursuant to the lawsuit settlement for Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (IOGA) v. U.S., No. N-87-0426. A Task Force was appointed to review the issues litigated by the IOGA concerning decisions in the FC--RONR Wilderness Management Plan to change long-term operating practices by outfitters and guides, and reported to the Chief in December, 1988. On April 20, 1989, the Chief signed an interim direction for the 1989 field season. On January 11, 1990, Regional Foresters of R-1 and R-4 delivered their evaluation and recommendation of the interim direction.

The agreement states that

> "the goal is to continue to promote the use of lightweight, portable equipment that can be taken in and out of the wilderness at the beginning and end of each use season in order to achieve the purpose of the Wilderness Acts and protect wilderness resource values."

The agreement includes a schedule for removal of items that provides outfitters with the time needed to replace equipment and adjust operations to achieve the goal.

III. Reasons for Categorically Excluding This Administrative Action

The settlement agreement does not have an important effect on the entire plan or affect land and resource throughout a large portion of the FC--RONR Wilderness. This agreement changes the treatment of outfitters caches with a new schedule for the reduction in storage of items that are obtrusive and visible and the promotion of lightweight, portable equipment. It also changes the removal of underground piping with the implementation of approved methods of water collection and distribution that best protect resource values. Finally it sets a date of 1993 to review and develop a schedule of accomplishment for all unresolved issues.

We have examined the categories of exclusion in FSH 1909.15, ID No. 3, dated Jan. 20, 1990 and have determined this action falls in the category of routine administrative actions (Ch. 26.1b[1]) that may be Categorically Excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement or an Environmental Assessment. The proposal does not have any extraordinary circumstances which might cause the action to have significant effects.

IV. Findings of Consistency With the FC--RONR Wilderness and Forest Plans

The Forest Plan states that management of the FC--RONR Wilderness will be in accordance with the FC--RONR Wilderness Management Plan. The changing of the schedule for removal of equipment and underground piping from the FC--RONR Wilderness does not change the intent of the FC--RONR Wilderness Management Plan, which is to

> "manage those commercial and other special uses that are authorized in wilderness in a manner which results in the least possible impact on the wilderness resource."(Plan, p. 56).

Since this amendment provides for implementation of the intent of the Forest Plan, this is not a significant amendment to the Forest Plan.

V. Implementation

The conditions of the agreement were effective at the time the FC--RONR Wilderness Agreement between the Chief of the Forest Service and the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association was signed (June 4, 1990). This administrative action is to implement the agreement by:

Amending the Bitterroot, Boise, Challis, Nez Perce, Payette and Salmon National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans as follows:

Wherever FC--RONR Wilderness Management Plan is cited, the following is added: "as amended, May 8, 1991 (date)"

Amending the FC--RONR Wilderness Management Plan page 60-(2)(g) by changing wording from

"Existing caches will be phased out at the rate of one per year per outfitter beginning at the end of the 1986 season."

to

"100% reduction in 1991 in storage of items that are obtrusive and visible from main and access trails and from main camp area . Progress toward accomplishing the goal of promoting the use of lightweight, portable equipment to protect wilderness resource values will be reviewed in 1993 and a schedule of accomplishment established for any unresolved issues."

And page 61-(2)(i) from

"Issue direction to Wilderness Managers that the permanent piping of water from boxed-in springs is not an allowable improvement permitted in operating plans."

to

"Removal of all in-camp plumbing fixtures connected to water systems and underground piping to tents by 1990. Implementation of approved methods of water collection and distribution for stock needs that best protect the wilderness resource values by 1992."

VI. Appeal Rights

Because these plan amendments are the result of litigation, the Chief of the Forest Service has waived any further administrative review of the amendments pursuant to 36 CFR 217.18 (as stated in August 8, 1990 memo) .

VII. Contact Persons

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APPROVED:

/s/Christopher Risbrudt (for)
JOHN MUMMA
Regional Forester
Northern Region

May 8, 1991
Date

/s/ Gray F. Reynolds
GRAY F. REYNOLDS
Regional Forester
Intermountain Region

May 8, 1991
Date

APPENDIX A

Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Agreement

This agreement is pursuant to the lawsuit settlement for Idaho Outfitter and Guides Association (IOGA) v. U.S. Attorney, No. N-87-0426. A Task Force was appointed to review the issues litigated by the IOGA concerning decisions in the Frank Church--River of No Return (FCRONR) Wilderness Management Plan to change long-term operating practices by outfitters and guides, and reported to the Chief in December, 1988. On April 20, 1989, the Chief signed an interim direction for the 1989 field season. On January 11, 1990, Regional Foresters of R-1 and R-4 delivered their evaluation and recommedation of the interim direction.

The goal is to continue to promote the use of portable equipment that can be taken in and out of the wilderness at the beginning and end of each use season in order to achieve the purpose of the Wilderness Acts and protect wilderness resource values. This agreement will provide the outfitters with the time needed to replace equipment and adjust operations to achieve this, according to the following schedule:

Removal of dumps and boneyards. Schedule: 75 percent by 1990, 100 percent by 1991. (All percent reductions in this agreement establish a minimum reduction, and all dates are the end of that year.)

Removal of all tent structures, with poles stored upright in an unobtrusive manner. One ground log can be left on a case-by-case basis. Schedule: 67 percent by 1990, 100 percent by 1991.

Removal of furniture made with manufactured material (such as boards and plywood). Furniture made with native materials will be disassembled and stored unobtrusively. Schedule: 33 percent by 1990, 67 percent by 1991, 100 percent by 1992.

Reduction in storage of items that are obtrusive or visible from main and access trails and from main camp area. Schedule: 50 percent by 1990, 100 percent by 1991. Continue testing and evaluating lightweight, portable equipment.

Removal of all in-camp plumbing fixtures connected to water systems and underground piping to tents by 1990. Implementation of approved methods of water collection and distribution for stock needs that best protect the wilderness resource values by 1992.

Temporary facilities of native materials are to be dismantled and stored in an unobtrusive manner during periods of non-use of the campsite. Scheduled removal of materials listed above and specifics on location and size of items to be stored in an unobtrusive manner during periods of non-use will be detailed in the annual operating plan developed with each operator and District Ranger. Toilet structures are not an accceptable method of storing unwieldy equipment and will be removed. All opportunities to achieve the mutually-agreed upon goal will be utilized. Progress toward accomplishing the goal of promoting the use of lightweight, portable equipment to protect

wilderness resource values will be reviewed in 1993 and a schedule of accomplishment established for any unresolved items.

Regional Foresters of Regions 1 and 4, through the FCRONR Wilderness Board of Directors and Lead Working Group, will develop an implementation schedule stating which actions are to be completed, by camp and year, to achieve the removals listed above. The President of IOGA will provide input for the schedule for members of IOGA. Action items from the implementation schedule will be incorporated into each recreation service partner's annual operating plan starting in 1990.

Forest Service managers are to work closely with the outfitters as we move towards our long-term objectives governing the management and use of wilderness. Wilderness is a great resource of which we are all proud, and together we can protect wilderness for future generations while providing opportunities to visit and enjoy it.

APPROVED:

/s/George M. Leonard (for)
F. DALE ROBERTSON
Chief
United States Forest Service

June 4, 1990

/s/ Doug Tims
Doug Tims
President
Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association

May 24, 1990

/s/ Stanley Potts
Stanley Potts
Vice President
Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association

May 24, 1990

CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST PLAN

AMENDMENT # 2

January 27, 1992

Forest Plan Amendment # 2 reversed by Intermountain Regional Forester
on June 22, 1992.

This means that Amendment # 2, which was the 1992 Challis National Forest Travel Plan, will not be implemented. The changes to the Forest Plan from this amendment were reversed, leaving the Forest Plan as it was prior to this Plan Amendment.

Challis National Forest

Forest Plan Amendments 3 - 8

Pages to be inserted into the Forest Plan

SPECIAL USE PERMITS

KIND OF USE	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL USES	TOTAL MILES R/W LENGTH	TOTAL ACRES PERMITTED
Agriculture	21	28	5.9	420.3
Industrial	7	7	0	20.8
Research, Study and Training	1	1	0	0.1
Utilities and Communication	25	27	104.6	402.4
Water Use	54	55	31.6	124.5
Total Non-Recreation	133	144	212.1	1,166.6
Charge Permits		93		
Non-Charge Permits		51		

Interest exists for installation of additional electronics facilities, both at existing sites and on new sites.

Land line location and boundary marking of approximately 635 miles of exterior and interior boundary is needed to reduce resource conflict and potential trespass. At present, management emphasis is not placed on this activity.

b. Research Natural Areas (RNA's)

Research Natural Areas are relatively small land areas which typify important forest, shrubland, grassland, alpine, aquatic, geologic, and other natural situations that have special or unique characteristics of scientific interest and importance. Activities are limited to research, education, and monitoring changes in natural conditions.

The selection and establishment of RNA's is a component of the continuing Land and Resource Management Planning Process for National Forest System lands. The criterion for management of RNA's is for protection against inappropriate encroachment on and degradation of existing conditions.

The Challis National Forest has eight RNA's: Iron Bog and Meadow Canyon (both established in 1981), and Soldier Lakes; Surprise Valley; Merriam Lake Basin; Middle Canyon; Smiley Mountain; and Mohogany Creek (established in 1992).

Meadow Canyon totals 3,880 acres; 285 on the Challis National Forest and 3,595 on the Targhee National Forest. It was designated to protect a large number of unusual and rare plants, and some of the finest alpine tundra in Idaho.

Iron Bog Research Natural Area totals 434 acres adjacent to Iron Bog Creek. It was designated to protect a rare, dry climate sphagnum bog bordered by sagebrush/grass and Douglas-fir climax forest.

Middle Canyon totals about 2,200 acres in T6 and 7N, R29E. Designed to protect rare plant species, Great Basin vegetation, limestone cliffs, and fossils.

Mahogany Creek totals about 3,500 acres in T10N, R22 and 223E. It was designed to protect mountain mahogany types, forest types of Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, whitebark and limber pines, high mountain grasslands, and alpine grassland.

Merriam Lake Basin totals about 750 acres in T9, R23E. Designed to protect varied alpine, including tundra, vegetation typical of sites 2,400 miles to the north, truly alpine (above timberline) natural lakes, and numerous rare plant species.

Surprise Valley totals about 1,470 acres in T6N, R20 and 21E. It was designed to protect large wet meadows, small lakes, alpine communities in exceptionally good condition.

Smiley Mountain totals about 2,260 acres in T4 and 5N, R22E. Designed to protect large, wet meadows, small lakes, and alpine communities in extremely good condition.

Soldier Lakes totals about 175 acres in T14N, R10E within the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. It is designed to protect aquatic types in high elevation lakes and subalpine fir forest on granitic rocks at elevations over 9,000 feet.

A team from the Forest and the Idaho Research Natural Areas Committee have identified the following three additional sites as proposed Research Natural Areas:

1) Sheep Mountain - Includes land on the Salmon and Targhee National Forests, and 278 acres on the Challis National Forest in T12N, R27E. Contain vegetation growing on a variety of substrata in adjacent sites, at an elevation of about 10,865 feet.

2) Cache Creek Lakes - About 2,000 acres in T17N, R15E within the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Aquatic and terrestrial systems associated with soils derived from volcanic rock at elevations between 7,800 and 9,880 feet.

3) Mystery Lake - About 465 acres in T13N, R14E within the Frank Church--River of Return Wilderness. Subalpine fir habitat types, alpine communities, lakes, and wet meadows on volcanic and granitic rock substratum. Elevation 9,000 to 10,329 feet.

Objective 5 - Firm occupancy conditions and permit termination dates will be determined and implemented by the end of the first decade.

11. Facilities

Goal 1
Manage Forest telecommunication system according to approved Forest Telecommunications Plan.

Goal 2
A road management program will be followed to ensure a safe, economical, functional, and environmentally sound transportation system that serves the resource management needs of the Forest.

Objective 1 - Reconstruct 400 miles of the presently substandard road system, by the end of the third decade in order to ensure safety, provide a maintainable road system and protect water quality.

Objective 2 - Identify roads not needed and close or put to bed.

Objective 3 - Construction of new roads will be to minimum standard necessary to serve identified needs and protect resources with emphasis on water quality.

Objective 4 - Road systems will be maintained to the minimum standard needed to ensure safety, minimal environmental impacts, protection of investment, and to allow for necessary resource activities.

Objective 5 - Enter into advantageous road maintenance agreements as opportunities arise.

Objective 6 - Develop and implement a road management program that considers the needs of all Forest resources.

Goal 3
Develop a management program for the operation and maintenance of administrative sites, buildings, and workcenters for the economic and efficient administration of the Forest.

Objective 1 - Correct health and safety deficiencies.

Objective 2 - Identify facility needs and establish a process for eliminating those not needed, that need replacement, or that require new construction.

Objective 3 - Maintain a Forest-wide Facilities Maintenance Plan.

Objective 4 - Maintain and monitor drinking water systems to ensure compliance with safe drinking water standards.

12. Research Natural Areas

Goal 1
Preserve the natural ecosystems in established and proposed Research Natural Areas.

d. Proposed Wilderness

1) Continue existing ORV closures or expand closures where needed to allow adverse impacts from ORV's to heal.

2) Maintain trails to the standards established in the District Trail Maintenance Plans.

3) Prohibit land-disturbing activities, except legal mineral activity, that would degrade the wilderness characteristics.

e. Special Areas

1) Protect the natural integrity of the established and proposed Research Natural Areas.

2) Deter structural improvements unless they provide protection of natural ecosystems.

3) No timber harvest.

4) No vegetation manipulation.

f. Off-Road Vehicles

1) Annually inventory high use ORV areas on the Forest, identifying areas of watershed damage.

2) Mitigate and/or rehabilitate past and present ORV damaged areas.

3) Initiate and enforce ORV restrictions and/or closures within areas where watershed damage is occurring, or where ORV use seriously impacts other resources, i.e., wildlife.

4) Sign to clearly indicate whether an area or trail is open, closed, or restricted to ORV use.

5) Designate unrestricted ORV use areas, specific ORV travel routes, and promote public awareness and utilization through the Travel Plan.

6) Treat, revegetate, and close (including various degrees of obliteration) all roads which are causing, or will cause, serious resource problem(s) and/or extensive user conflicts. Refer to the current Watershed Condition Inventory.

7) Program ORV improvement needs as prescribed within the Watershed Condition Inventory.

8) Relocate ORV crossings in riparian areas, where damage is occurring to avoid streambank and channel damage.

9) Discourage ORV use on wetlands and riparian areas.

10) Initiate ORV restrictions at existing/proposed wilderness trailheads.

d. Establish forage utilization standards at levels which will yield 90% inherent bank stability or trends toward 90% where streams or other water bodies are involved.

e. Discourage livestock concentrations in riparian areas and within 100 feet of lakes and perennial streams. Restrict livestock grazing in identified problem areas where necessary.

f. Do not locate developments in floodplains and wetlands without proper protection of investments and prior assessment of all practicable alternative locations.

g. Livestock driveways and trailing areas will be located away from riparian or streamside areas.

h. Discourage camping along streams and within 100 feet of lakes in problem areas.

i. Control recreational stock use in identified problem areas.

j. Develop suitable silvicultural prescriptions to maintian riparian vegetation in as diverse and vigorous condition as possible. Within 100 feet of lake or wetland perimeters, timber harvest should not be programed. Prohibit mechanical ground-disturbing activities within 50 feet of streambanks.

k. Monitor activity effects on soil productivity within riparian areas to further refine riparian Best Management Practices.

l. Monitor activities in riparian areas to ensure thaat management objectives are met.

m. The Forest will develop a riparian classification scheme in cooperation with neighboring Forests and will inventory riparian areas.

12. Research Natural Areas

a. Management and protection of the research natural areas (RNA's) will be directed toward maintaining natural ecological processes.

b. To the extent possible, no activities of humans except the suppression of fires will be permitted that will disturb or modify ecological processes.

c. Activities such as livestock grazing and timber cutting (including firewood gathering) will not be permitted.

d. Wildfires that originate within a RNA will be managed using the control stategy of the Appropriate Suppression Response system, while using suppression methods that will cause least disturbance to the RNA as a whole. Wildfires which have started and are burning outside the RNA, but threatening it, should be managed to try to prevent the fire from burning into, or through, the RNA.

e. RNA's are areas reserved for scientific research and education, and will not be promoted for general recreation use. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will be asked to remove all lakes and streams within RNA's from all stocking programs.

f. No actions will be taken against insects, diseases, wild plants, or animals unless the Regional Forester and Station Director deem such action necessary to protect the features for which the Research Natural Area was established or to protect adjacent features.

g. If exotic plants or animals have been, or are, introduced into the RNA, the Station Director and the Regional Forester shall exercise control measures that are in keeping with established management principles and standards to eradicate them, when practical.

h. Neither livestock grazing nor prescribed burning will be used in RNA's to induce or maintain seral species. Some incidental livestock use may occur within specific RNA's but will be discouraged.

i. At a minimum, one annual monitoring trip will be taken to the RNA by Forest Service personnel to ensure that only authorized use is occurring.

C. DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION OF THE FOREST

This section describes what the desired condition of the Forest should be resulting from implementation of the Preferred Alternatives direction in the Forest EIS.

1. Recreation

a. Developed Recreation

Existing sites will be hardened to prevent site deterioriation.

b. Dispersed Recreation

The demand for dispersed use will not exceed capacity Forest-wide. However, some localized sites will be over-used. As timber roading increases, minor shifts in ROS class from non-motorized to motorized will occur. The anticipated budget will be adequate to provide facilities to reduce conflicts between user groups.

Users will be directed away from over-used areas. Corridors into wilderness will be managed to maintain a natural appearance.

Trails will be upgraded and maintained at levels sufficient to meet safety needs and provide quality recreation experiences. Trails will generally be maintained at Level I. Existing trailheads will be maintained or reconstructed to preserve existing capacity, and new ones will be provided as demands dictate.

The Forest will provide for diversified uses of trails and at the same time, stabilize trail maintenance program through a more even funding level each year.

Recreation special use permit administration will emphasize permit compliance.

c. Special Areas

The: Iron Bog; Meadow Canyon; Soldier Lakes; Surprise Valley; Smiley Mountain; Middle Canyon; Merriam Lake Basin; and Mohogany Creek Research Natural Areas will be protected. It is anticipated that Sheep Mountain, Cache Creek Lakes, and Mystery Lake will be designated as Research Natural Areas. The natural condition of these areas will be protected.

It is anticipated that a Borah Quake National Natural Area or geologic area will be established to protect part of the fault scarp. Interpretive services may be provided at the site. The area will be jointly examined with the BLM and the acres determined during the next few years.

It is recommended that the trail up Corral Creek, a tributary of Morgan Creek to the Big Hat Creek Trail on the Salmon Forest, be nominated as a National Recreation Trail. This coincides with and compliments the proposal by the Salmon National Forest.

Management Area #1

Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness
(Administered by the Challis National Forest)
782,255 Acres

Description

The Challis National Forest administers the southern third of the 2.35 million acre Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. The western boundary is the ridgeline that separates the Middle Fork drainage from the South Fork of the Salmon River drainage. The southern boundary follows a series of road corridors and exclusions. The eastern boundary follows topographic features that separate the main Salmon River drainage from the Middle Fork drainage. The northern boundary is the Forest boundary with the Boise, Salmon and Payette National Forests.

The area ranges in elevation from 3,800 feet to over 10,000 feet. Topographical features include steep canyon ridges with numerous creeks draining into the Middle Fork of the Salmon River.

Vegetation varies from ponderosa pine/bluebunch wheatgrass or Idaho fescue, and Douglas-fir/snowberry, at lower elevations, to subalpine fir types in areas above 6,000 feet.

General access is provided by State Highways 21 and 93. Numerous Forest roads branch from these highways to many of the wilderness trailheads. Several airstrips (both public and private) allow for additional access within the wilderness boundary.

The Middle Fork of the Salmon Wild and Scenic River is included in this management area. During the floating season, this part of the area receives heavy recreation use under both private and commercial permits.

The Soldier Lakes Research Natural Area located within this Management Area, is an area reserved for scientific research and education, and will not be promoted for other uses.

Desired Future Condition - Wilderness will remain unchanged and undeveloped.

MANAGEMENT AREA #1 - MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

Management	The United States Congress recognized that the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness is contained within parts of several national forests, all of which are developing land and resource management plans in compliance with Section 6 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-588). The Central Idaho Wilderness Act directs that the comprehensive management plan for the FC-RONR Wilderness be coordinated with these Forest Plans. This wilderness plan was completed and approved on March 11, 1985 and is hereby incorporated as part of this Forest Plan. The FC-RONR Management Plan provides the basic direction toward preserving the quality and integrity of the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. The Falconberry Guard Station is needed on an intermittent basis to meet wilderness management objectives and for administrative use. Due to an oversight, the Falconberry helispot was not included as an approved air access to the wilderness in the Wilderness Management Plan. The operation and maintenance of this helispot meets the requirements of safety and serviceability with minimum impacts on the wilderness resource. The Wilderness Plan will be corrected to include the Falconberry helispot. The Soldier Lakes Research Natural Area located in this Management Area, is an area reserved for scientific research and education, and will not be promoted for other uses.
Recreation	Provide a broad range of opportunities for primitive recreation in a manner that protects and preserves the Wilderness.
Wildlife & Fish	Provide habitat conducive to maintaining the natural distribution and abundance of native species of wildlife and fish by allowing only natural processes to shape habitat and affect interactions among species.
Range	Provide for continued livestock grazing where established prior to designation of Wilderness, as directed by the Wilderness Act and subsequent Forest Service management direction.
Soil & Water	Preserve water bodies and stream courses in their natural state, and ensure that soil formation, alteration, and erosion occur at a rate not noticeably affected by human activity.
Minerals	Administer mining activity to assure the least possible impact on the Wilderness resource without unreasonable impairment of property rights, and provide for the orderly development of mineral resources.
Lands	Meet objectives stated in the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness Management Plan.

Insert in Forest Plan between pages IV-49 and IV-50

SOLDIER LAKES RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

Management and protection of the Soldier Lakes RNA will be directed toward maintaining natural ecological processes. To the extent possible, no activities of humans except the suppression of fires will be premitted that will disturb or modify ecological processes. Such activities as livestock grazing and timber cutting will not be permitted. Fire will not be used as a tool to induce or maintain seral species.

Wildfires that originate within the area will be managed using the control stategy of the Appropriate Suppression Response system, while using suppression methods that will cause least disturbance to the RNA as a whole. Wildfires which have started and are burning outside the RNA, but threatening it, should be managed to try to prevent the fire from burning into or through the RNA.

No actions will be taken against insects, diseases, wild plants, or animals unless the Regional Forester and Station Director deem such action necessary to protect the features for which the Research Natural Area was established or to protect adjacent features. If exotic plants or animals have been, or are, introduced into the RNA, the Station Director and the Regional Forester shall exercise control measures that are in keeping with established management principles and standards to eradicate them, when practical.

At a minimum, one annual monitoring trip will be taken to the RNA by Forest Service personnel to ensure that only authorized use is occurring.

Neither livestock grazing nor prescribed burning will be used in the Soldier Lakes RNA to induce or maintain seral species. Some incidental livestock use may occur but will be discouraged within the RNA.

MANAGEMENT AREA #11

Pioneer Mountains

245,972 Acres

The Pioneer Mountains Management Area lies between the Mackay Front Management Area and the Sawtooth National Forest with which it forms a common boundary. Access is provided by the Trail Creek Road in the north, and the Cherry Creek Road from Antelope Creek and Highway 93, in the south. The road through Copper Basin connects the two routes.

The mountainous terrain varies from alpine basins, flats and benches, to rocky walls and mountain peaks. Glacial cirques with vertical relief of 3,000 to 4,000 feet are found at the base of many peaks. The Pioneer Range is the second highest in Idaho with Hyndman Peak exceeding 12,000 feet. There are gently rolling hills in the eastern portion of the area.

Numerous lakes and streams are located in the unit. Vegetation at the lower elevations consists of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine scattered within a sagebrush and grass community. Spruce and wet sedge meadows occur throughout. At higher elevations, vegetations range from subalpine forests to alpine meadows under the barren mountain summits. The large and varied topographic features support habitat for diverse communities of plants and animals, and is characterized with high quality vegetative diversity. This area is classified as a western spruce/fir forest and sagebrush steppe ecosystem.

Current use includes livestock grazing, timber harvest, mining activity, hunting, fishing, camping, backpacking, horseback riding and snowmobiling.

Elk and mule deer are the most common big game species. Pronghorn antelope, mountain goat, bighorn sheep, mountain lion and black bear also inhabit the unit. Cold water resident lake and stream fisheries are present throughout the area.

The Surprise Valley Research Natural Area, and the Smiley Mountain Research Natural Area, located in this Management Area, are areas reserved for scientific research and education, and will not be promoted for other uses.

Desired Future Conditions - The management area will remain essentially unchanged and undeveloped. Dispersed recreation activities and opportunities will dominate the management strategy. Highly productive range lands will be intensively managed. That portion of the area proposed as Wilderness will remain in its natural condition.

MANAGEMENT AREA #11 - MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

Management in the proposed wilderness areas, Pioneer Mountain (48,000 acres) and White Clouds (8,000 acres), will emphasize protection of the wilderness attributes. The Surprise Valley and the Smiley Mountain Research Natural Areas, located in this Management Area, are areas reserved for scientific research and education, and will not be promoted for other uses. Management outside of those areas will emphasize maintenance of water quality, range administration, enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and dispersed recreation opportunities.

Recreation	Emphasize dispersed recreation and provide for developed recreation opportunities. Protect wilderness attributes of proposed wilderness areas. Protect the natural integrety of the two research Natural areas in this management area.
Wildlife & Fish	Emphasize habitat management for elk, moose, and upland game. Improve wildlife and fish habitat quality and maintain current capability levels through improvement projects and coordination with other resources. Emphasize maintaining and improving stream and lake habitat quality.
Range	Manage suitable range to maintain or improve present condition, and manage range to protect wilderness values within proposed wilderness areas.
Timber	Manage suitable lands for timber production. Emphasize management of the most productive and accessible stands.
Soil and Water	Protect or improve soil productivity and water quality.
Lands	Resolve boundary conflicts adjacent to and within National Forest System lands.
Minerals	Recognize highly mineralized character of Wildhorse and Starhope drainages.
Facilities	Construct, maintain and manage facilities to meet the needs of resource management activities.

Insert in Forest Plan between pages IV-106 and IV-107

SURPRISE VALLEY RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

Management and protection of the Surprise Valley RNA will be directed toward maintaining natural ecological processes. To the extent possible, no activities of humans except the suppression of fires will be premitted that will disturb or modify ecological processes. Permitted livestock grazing and timber cutting will not be allowed.

Wildfires that originate within the area will be managed using the control stategy of the Appropriate Suppression Response system, while using suppression methods that will cause least disturbance to the RNA as a whole. Wildfires which have started and are burning outside the RNA, but threatening it, should be managed to try to prevent the fire from burning into or through the RNA.

The RNA is an area reserved for scientific research and education, and will not be promoted for general recreation use. Recreation use is of concern for this area and will be monitored. If recreation use is found to be causing adverse effects to the natural ecological processes within the RNA, an analysis will be undertaken by the Forest with input from the Station Director on the best method for resolving the situation.

To minimize negative impacts from recreation and trail use, trail locations may be improved to avoid detrimental impacts to the RNA values. Trail improvement may additionally confine and manage recreation traffic. Interpretative signing may be necessary to enhance the preservation of the RNA unique features. Directional signing may be limited to facilitate recreation movement through the RNA and onto further destinations, thereby serving to discourage destination camping within Surprise Valley. Incidental livestock use from recreationists may occur but will be discouraged within the RNA.

It will be recommended to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game that the stocking program be discontinued in the RNA.

No actions will be taken against insects, diseases, wild plants, or animals unless the Regional Forester and Station Director deem such action necessary to protect the features for which the Research Natural Area was established or to protect adjacent features. If exotic plants or animals have been, or are, introduced into the RNA, the Station Director and the Regional Forester shall exercise control measures that are in keeping with established management principles and standards to eradicate them, when practical.

The Regional Forester will request the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw the RNA from mineral entry after its establishment.

At a minimum, one annual monitoring trip will be taken to the RNA by Forest Service personnel to ensure that only authorized use is occurring.

Neither livestock grazing nor prescribed burning will be used in the Surprise Valley RNA to induce or maintain seral species.

Insert in Forest Plan between pages IV-106(b) and IV-107

SMILEY MOUNTAIN RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

Management and protection of the Smiley Mountain RNA will be directed toward maintaining natural ecological processes. To the extent possible, no activities of humans except the suppression of fires will be premitted that will disturb or modify ecological processes. Activities such as permitted livestock grazing and timber cutting will not be allowed.

Wildfires that originate within the area will be managed using the control stategy of the Appropriate Suppression Response system, while using suppression methods that will cause least disturbance to the RNA as a whole. Wildfires which have started and are burning outside the RNA, but threatening it, should be managed to try to prevent the fire from burning into or through the RNA.

The RNA is an area reserved for scientific research and education, and will not be promoted for general recreation use. It will be recommended to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game that the stocking program be discontinued in Lake # 12 and that no new stocking programs be started within the RNA.

No actions will be taken against insects, diseases, wild plants, or animals unless the Regional Forester and Station Director deem such action necessary to protect the features for which the Research Natural Area was established or to protect adjacent features. If exotic plants or animals have been, or are, introduced into the RNA, the Station Director and the Regional Forester shall exercise control measures that are in keeping with established management principles and standards to eradicate them, when practical.

The Regional Forester will request the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw the RNA from mineral entry after its establishment.

At a minimum, one annual monitoring trip will be taken to the RNA by Forest Service personnel to ensure that only authorized use is occurring.

Neither livestock grazing nor prescribed burning will be used in the Smiley Mountian RNA to induce or maintain seral species. Some incidental livestock use may occur but will be discouraged within the RNA.

MANAGEMENT AREA #16

BORAH PEAK

156,220 Acres

The Borah Peak Management Area comprises the central one-third of the Lost River Mountain Range. Its boundaries can be easily reached by the Double Springs Pass Road, Pass Creek Road, and other roads and trails leading off Highway 93 and Pahsimeroi Valley roads.

This unit is characterized by high peaks, large cirque basins, steep slopes and narrow canyon bottoms below cirque basins, leading to alluvial fans. The area is very rugged, with outstanding geological features due to repeated glaciation. One of the most outstanding features is Borah Peak, the highest mountain in Idaho, reaching 12,662 feet in elevation.

The diversity of vegetation produces a broad spectrum of life zones ranging from semi-arid shrublands to alpine rock/scree. Several vegetation types are present, including sagebrush and grass, mountain mahogany, spruce, subalpine fir, whitebark pine, and Douglas-fir. The steep slopes and high mountain tops and ridges provide a scenic backdrop to the valley ranches and communities. The surrounding valleys include irrigated hayfields and pastures, and riparian willow/cottonwood plant communities.

Current uses include grazing, minerals and gas exploration, timber and firewood harvest, and dispersed recreation including hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain climbing and cross-country skiing.

Major scenic attractions include Mt. Borah, and "Little Switzerland" in the upper reaches of the Pahsimeroi. The back country nature and diversity of vegetation types provide habitat for elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope and a multitude of other game and non-game animal species. Historically, mountain goat occupied the range, but today, none exist. There are several small high mountain lakes, most of which contain fisheries.

The Merriam Lake Basin Research Natural Area and the Mohogany Creek Reasearch Natural Area are located in this Management Area, and are areas reserved for scientific research and education. They will not be promoted for other uses.

Desire Future Conditions - The majority of this area is proposed for inclusion into the National Wilderness System. It will therefore remain in its existing state and its wilderness attributes will be protected. The remaining lands outside of the proposed wilderness will be managed with modest improvements.

MANAGEMENT AREA #16 - MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

Management of the proposed Borah Peak Wilderness Area (119,000 acres) will emphasize protection of wilderness attributes. Manage the Merriam Lake Basin Research Natural Area (RNA) and the Mahogany Creek RNA in accordance with the Forest-Wide Standards and Guidelines and The Establishment Record for the RNA's. Management of the remainder of this management area will emphasize range administration and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

Recreation	Manage the proposed Wilderness to protect the Wilderness attributes. Provide dispersed recreation opportunities. Protect: a) selected sections of the earthquake scarp, b) cultural and historic sites or features.
Wildlife & Fish	Emphasize management of big game. Protect Peregrine falcon habitat when identified. Improve fish and wildlife habitat productivity through improvement projects and coordination with other resources.
Range	Manage suitable range to maintain or improve present condition, and manage range to protect wilderness values of the proposed wilderness area.
Timber	Manage the most productive and accessible timber lands, outside of the proposed wilderness, for timber production.
Soil and Water	Maintain or improve water quality and soil productivity.
Lands	Ensure access to National Forest lands. Resolve boundary conflicts with adjacent or interior private and State lands.
Minerals	Protect the wilderness values within the proposed wilderness. Oil and gas leases in the proposed wilderness will not be issued until formal Congressional action.
Facilities	Construct, maintain and manage facilities to meet the needs of other resource management activities.

Insert in Forest Plan between pages IV-138 and IV-139

MERRIAM LAKE BASIN RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

Management and protection of the Merriam Lake Basin RNA will be directed toward maintaining natural ecological processes. To the extent possible, no activities of humans except the suppression of fires will be premitted that will disturb or modify ecological processes. Such activities as livestock grazing and timber cutting will not be permitted.

Wildfires that originate within the area will be managed using the control stategy of the Appropriate Suppression Response system, while using suppression methods that will cause least disturbance to the RNA as a whole. Wildfires which have started and are burning outside the RNA, but threatening it, should be managed to try to prevent the fire from burning into or through the RNA.

Recreational use will be monitored and controlled if it affects natural ecological processes.

No actions will be taken against insects, diseases, wild plants, or animals unless the Regional Forester and Station Director deem such action necessary to protect the features for which the Research Natural Area was established or to protect adjacent features. If exotic plants or animals have been, or are, introduced into the RNA, the Station Director and the Regional Forester shall exercise control measures that are in keeping with established management principles and standards to eradicate them, when practical.

At a minimum, one annual monitoring trip will be taken to the RNA by Forest Service personnel to ensure that only authorized use is occurring.

Neither livestock grazing nor prescribed burning will be used in the Merriam Lake Basin RNA to induce or maintain seral species. Some incidental livestock use may occur but will be discouraged within the RNA.

Insert in Forest Plan between pages IV-138(a) and IV-139

MAHOGANY CREEK RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

Management and protection of the Mahogany Creek RNA will be directed toward maintaining natural ecological processes. To the extent possible, no activities of humans except the suppression of fires will be premitted that will disturb or modify ecological processes. Such activities as livestock grazing and timber cutting will not be permitted.

After establishment, a request will be made to the BLM to withdraw the RNA from mineral entry.

Fire will not be used as a tool to induce or maintain seral species. Wildfires that originate within the area will be managed using the control stategy of the Appropriate Suppression Response system, while using suppression methods that will cause least disturbance to the RNA as a whole. Wildfires which have started and are burning outside the RNA, but threatening it, should be managed to try to prevent the fire from burning into or through the RNA.

Insects, diseases, and animals will not be controlled unless they endanger areas adjacent to the RNA.

Recreational use will be monitored and restricted if it affects natural ecological processes. When the Borah Peak WIlderness is established by Congress, the management direstion of the Congressional designation will take precedence.

As a minimum, one annual monitoring trip will be taken to the RNA by Forest Service personnel to ensure that only authorized use is occurring.

Neither livestock grazing nor prescribed burning will be used in the Mohogany Creek RNA ro induce or maintain seral species.

MANAGEMENT AREA #14

SOUTH LEMHI

79,981 Acres

The South Lemhi Management Area is located on the west side of the southern end of the Lemhi Mountain Range. The ridgecrest forms a common boundary with the Targhee National Forest. Access into the area is available through several roads originating from Highway 22. The area is sparsely roaded.

The Lemhi Range is a long, narrow range of mountains that are much more typical of the Great Basin Ranges than they are of the Northern Rocky Mountains with which they are associated. Elevation of the area ranges from about 6,000 feet to 12,197 feet at the summit of Diamond Peak. Eastern slopes rise sharply from the Birch Creek Valley, eventually giving away to barren rock and talus slopes. Numerous canyons with steep, rocky slopes dissect the mountain range. The western half drains into the Little Lost River.

The area is sparsely vegetated with a considerable amount of barren rock. The foothills and lower south-facing slopes are covered with mountain mahogany, sagebrush, and patches or stringers of Douglas-fir, and some lodgepole pine. Vegetation is very sparse in the higher elevations. The two major ecosystems in the area are the sagebrush steppe and the western spruce/fir forest.

Current use includes livestock grazing along the foothills and canyon bottoms, big game hunting, prospecting and limited backpack type recreation. There is no extensive use of the area.

The eastern half contains seven allotments (four cattle and three sheep allotments). Some of the sheep allotments are only useable when snow is available as a water source. The western half contains seven allotments (6 cattle and 1 sheep allotments).

Recreation use is light. Primary use is related to horseback riding and hiking with the most use occurring during hunting season.

There are two active mines in the area (Foss Mountain and Camp Creek). The south end of the range is heavily mineralized. Most of the area is under lease for oil and gas, or has lease applications pending.

Until the decline in the past ten years, mule deer were plentiful along this slope. Currently the area supports moderate populations. Pronghorn antelope are now the most numerous of the wild ungulates but they are usually found on the valley floor. A few elk are resident to the area. Bighorn sheep were released in the area, in 1984, in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Mountain goats are present.

The Middle Canyon Research Natural Area located in this Management Area, is an area reserved for scientific research and education, and will not be promoted for other uses.

Desired Future Conditions - The management area will remain essentially undeveloped.

MANAGEMENT AREA #14 - MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

Management will emphasize dispersed recreation opportunities and enhancement of wildlife habitat. Manage the Middle Canyon Research Natural Area (RNA) in accordance with the Forest-Wide Standards and Guidelines and The Establishment Record for this RNA.

Recreation	Emphasize dispersed recreation opportunities. Protect and preserve unique, natural, geological, cultural and historic sites or features.
Wildlife & Fish	Improve wildlife habitat productivity through improvement projects and coordination with other resources. Maintain or improve the current fish habitat. Encourage increases in bighorn sheep populations and transplants.
Range	Manage suitable range to maintain or improve present condition. Maintain coordination with BLM.
Timber	Manage suitable Forest lands for timber production. Emphasize management of the most productive and accessible stands.
Soil and Water	Protect or improve soil productivity and water quality.
Lands	Resolve boundary conflicts with private land. Ensure needed access to National Forest System lands.
Minerals	Exploration, location, leasing and development of energy and non-energy minerals will be coordinated with other resources.
Facilities	Construct, maintain and manage facilities to meet the needs of resource management activities.

Insert in Forest Plan between pages IV-127 and IV-128

MIDDLE CANYON RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

Management and protection of the Middle Canyon RNA will be directed toward maintaining natural ecological processes. To the extent possible, no activities of humans except the suppression of fires will be premitted that will disturb or modify ecological processes. Such activities as livestock grazing and timber cutting (including Firewood gathering) will not be permitted.

The present road into Middle Canyon will be permanently closed. The trail from the end of the road up Middle Canyon will not be maintained.

Wildfires that originate within the area will be managed using the control stategy of the Appropriate Suppression Response system, while using suppression methods that will cause least disturbance to the RNA as a whole. Wildfires which have started and are burning outside the RNA, but threatening it, should be managed to try to prevent the fire from burning into or through the RNA.

The RNA is an area reserved for scientific research and education, and will not be promoted for general recreation use.

No actions will be taken against insects, diseases, wild plants, or animals unless the Regional Forester and Station Director deem such action necessary to protect the features for which the Research Natural Area was established or to protect adjacent features. If exotic plants or animals have been, or are, introduced into the RNA, the Station Director and the Regional Forester shall exercise control measures that are in keeping with established management principle and standards to eradicate them, when practical.

The Regional Forester will request the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw the RNA from mineral entry after its establishment.

At a minimum, one annual monitoring trip will be taken to the RNA by Forest Service personnel to ensure that only authorized use is occurring.

Neither livestock grazing nor prescribed burning will be used in the Middle Canyon RNA to induce or maintain seral species. Some incidental livestock use may occur but will be discouraged within the RNA.

CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST PLAN

AMENDMENT # 9

FOREST TRAVEL PLAN

July 26, 1993

CHALLIS FOREST PLAN

TRAVEL PLAN AMENDMENT

CHANGES TO THE FOREST PLAN

The following changes are made to the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Challis National Forest as a result of the decision made on July 26, 1993 to implement Alternative 8 from the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Forest Travel Plan (EA dated April, 1993).

Changes to the Forest Plan are shown below by the Forest Plan page number and the clause number (or letter) where a change is to be made.

1. Page IV-12 Clause d. "Proposed Wilderness"

Reword standard "1)" to the following:

1) Continue existing ORV closures or expand closures where needed to allow adverse impacts from ORV's to heal. May allow ORV use to continue on the following roads and/or trails:

a. Toolbox-Herd Peak Trail # 051 - Between the ridgetop at the head of Toolbox Canyon, to Herd Peak - on the two short segments of this trail which dip into the proposed wilderness area; two-wheeled motorized and mechanized vehicles only.

b. Wildhorse Road # 136 - From proposed wilderness boundary (1/4 mile above Wildhorse Campground) to end of current road; no vehicle size restrictions.

c. Long Lost Creek Road # 434 - From proposed wilderness boundary to trailhead for Long Lost Trail # 194; no vehicle size restrictions.

d. Long Lost Trail # 194 - From Long Lost Creek Road # 434 to end of trail; two-wheel, motorized and mechanized vehciles only.

e. Swauger Lakes Trail # 091 - From Lost Lost Creek Road # 434 to Dry Creek Trail # 240; two-wheel, motorized and mechanized vehicles only.

f. Long Lost-Wet Creek Trail # 245 - From Long Lost Trail # 194 to Shadow Lakes; two-wheel, motorized and mechanized vehicles only.

g. Bear-Wet Creek Trail # 092 - That portion of the trail which is in the Borah Peak proposed wilderness; two-wheel, motorized and mechanized vehicles permitted from July 1st to Sept. 30th only.

h. Sawmill Gulch Road # 411 - From proposed wilderness boundary to existing mine; no vehicle size restrictions.

2. Page IV-12 (Revised 6/8/92) Clause f. "Off-Road Vehicles"

Reword standard "4)" to the following:

4) Positive signing will be installed to explain what travel opportunities are availible and the reasons for, and an explanation of, any closures and/or restrictions. Signing will be intended to provide users with an understanding of resource concerns and compliance with restrictions.

3. Page IV-12(a) (Revised 6/8/92)

Reword standard "10)" to the following:

10) Initiate ORV restrictions at trailheads wherever possible.

4. Page IV-13

A. Reword standard "12)" to the following:

12) All recommended wilderness will be closed to motorized and mechanized use, except as noted under the Forest-wide standards and guidelines for "Proposed Wilderness" (page IV-12).

(Note: The standard referenced here is the standard shown on page 1 of this Forest Plan amendment.)

B. Add the following two standards to the end of the existing standards on Off-road Vehicles (immediately before the Wildlife and Fish standards).

14) On National Forest lands where travel (motorized and/or mechanized) is restricted to designated routes only, off-route travel is limited to within 300 feet either side the of designated routes and for the purposes of access to camping sites, retrieval of big game carcasses, or for firewood gathering; unless otherwise authorized by a properly executed Forest Service permit.

15) The Forest Travel Plan will be displayed on a map designed to be easily understood by the public.

5. Page IV-85

Revise the second "A01" statement to read as follows:

Maintain existing ORV area closures within the proposed Boulder/ White Clouds wilderness, except that the Toolbox - Herd Peak trail # 051 will be open to motorized and/or mechanized use.

6. Page IV-107

Revise the third "A01" statement to read as follows:

Maintain existing ORV area closures. Within the proposed Pioneer Mountains wilderness, only the Wildhorse Road # 136 will be open to motorized and/or mechanized use.

7. Page IV-139

Revise the first statement under "A12" to read as follows:

Maintain existing ORV area closures. Within the proposed Borah Peak wilderness, motorized and mechanized use will be allowed to continue on the following routes:

a. Long Lost Creek Road # 434 - From proposed wilderness boundary to trailhead for Long Lost Trail # 194; no vehicle size restrictions.

b. Long Lost Trail # 194 - From Long Lost Creek Road # 434 to end of trail; two-wheel, motorized and mechanized vehciles only.

c. Swauger Lakes Trail # 091 - From Lost Lost Creek Road # 434 to Dry Creek Trail # 240; two-wheel, motorized and mechanized vehicles only.

d. Long Lost-Wet Creek Trail # 245 - From Long Lost Trail # 194 to Shadow Lakes; two-wheel, motorized and mechanized vehicles only.

e. Bear-Wet Creek Trail # 092 - That portion of the trail which is in the Borah Peak proposed wilderness; two-wheel, motorized and mechanized vehicles permitted from July 1st to Sept. 30th only.

f. Sawmill Gulch Road # 411 - From proposed wilderness boundary to existing mine; no vehicle size restrictions.

CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST PLAN

AMENDMENT # 10

OUTFITTER AND GUIDE OPERATIONS
IN THE
FRANK CHURCH -- RIVER OF NO RETURN
WILDERNESS
per the
COURT APPROVED REMEDIAL PLAN

July 20, 1994

United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Challis National Forest | H/C 63, Box 1671 Challis, ID 83226

Reply to: 1920/2320

Date: September 8, 1994

RE: Amendment Number 10 to the Challis Forest Plan

Dear Forest Management Participant:

Enclosed is a letter from the Regional Forester, Intermountain Region, which amends the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness (FC--RONRW) Management Plan and the Forest Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans) for the Bitterroot, Boise, Salmon, Challis, Payette, and Nez Perce National Forests. This is amendment number 10 for the Challis Forest Plan. The amendment is the result of a March 15 Court Order adopting the Forest Service Remedial Plan (enclosed).

You are being notified because you are on the mailing list for the Challis National Forest - Forest Plan. In the interest of timely notification, not all of the mailing lists for every Forest were reviewed to eliminate duplication. If you receive more than one notification letter, please disregard the additional copies.

The following changes are needed to your plans:

1. Make the following pen and ink changes to your Forest Plans:

   Wherever FC--RONRW Management Plan is cited, the following is added:
   "as amended, July 1994."

2. **Replace** existing pages 60 through 62 of the FC--RONRW Management Plan with the enclosed pages 60, 61, 61a, and 62.

If you have any questions regarding this plan amendment, please notify any of the contact persons listed in the enclosed letter.

Sincerely,

John W. Coil

for CHARLES C. WILDES
Forest Supervisor
Challis National Forest

Enclosure

CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST PLAN

AMENDMENT # 11

INTERIM STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING

ANADROMOUS FISH-PRODUCING WATERSHEDS
in
EASTERN OREGON AND WASHINGTON, IDAHO,

AND PORTIONS OF CALIFORNIA

March 9, 1995

FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT NUMBER 11

PACFISH GUIDELINES

This Forest Plan amendment is a result of a decision made on February 24, 1995 by Jack Ward Thomas, Chief of the Forest Service regarding an Environmental Assessment for the Interim Strategies for Managing Anadromous Fish-producing Watersheds in Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho, and Portions of California (also known as PACFISH). A part of this decision include amending the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the Challis National Forest. This amendment should be placed in the section of the Forest Plan entitled "Forest-Wide Management Direction, Standards and Guidelines". In order to keep this information together, the entire following amendment should be place as a whole following page IV-33(a) (revised 6/8/92).

13. Anadromous Fish

Goals, objectives, standards, guidelines, and procedures (together referred to as "management direction") are applied to proposed projects and activities, as well as ongoing projects and activities that pose an unacceptable risk.

The adoption of this direction could lead to deferring or suspending some resource management projects and activities within the Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs, described below) or that degrade RHCAs during the interim period. Adoption of these requirements during the interim period would not lead to the permanent removal of any project or activity from the RHCAs. The potential for permanent removal or elimination of any activity from the RHCAs is being examined in the geographically-specific environmental analyses.

RIPARIAN GOALS (GOALS)

The goals establish an expectation of the characteristics of healthy, functioning watersheds, riparian areas, and associated fish habitats. Since the quality of water and fish habitat in aquatic systems is inseparably related to the integrity of upland and riparian areas within the watersheds, this section articulates several goals for watershed, riparian, and stream channel conditions. The goals are to maintain or restore:

(1) water quality to a degree that provides for stable and productive riparian and aquatic ecosystems;

(2) stream channel integrity, channel processes, and the sediment regime (including the elements of timing, volume, and character of sediment input and transport) under which the riparian and aquatic ecosystems developed;

(3) instream flows to support healthy riparian and aquatic habitats, the stability and effective function of steam channels, and the ability to route flood discharges;

(4) natural timing and variability of the water table elevation in meadows and wetlands;

(5) diversity and productivity of native and desired non-native plant communities in riparian zones;

(6) riparian vegetation to:

(a) provide an amount and distribution of large woody debris characteristic of natural aquatic and riparian ecosystems;

(b) provide adequate summer and winter thermal regulation within the riparian and aquatic zones; and

(c) help achieve rates of surface erosion, bank erosion, and channel migration characteristic of those under which the communities developed.

(7) riparian and aquatic habitats necessary to foster the unique genetic fish stocks that evolved within the specific geo-climatic region; and

(8) habitat to support populations of well-distributed native and desired non-native plant, vertebrate, and invertebrate populations that contribute to the viability of riparian-dependent communities.

RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES (RMOs)

Landscape-scale interim RMOs describing good habitat for anadromous fish were developed using stream inventory data for pool frequency, large woody debris, bank stability and lower bank angle, and width to depth ratio. Applicable published and non-published scientific literature was used to define favorable water temperatures. All of the described features may not occur in a specific segment of stream within a watershed, but all generally should occur at the watershed scale for stream systems of moderate to large size (3rd to 7th order).

Interim RMOs may be modified to better reflect conditions that are attainable in a specific watershed or stream reach based on local geology, topography, climate, and potential vegetation. Generally, RMO modifications will require completion of watershed analysis to provide the ecological basis for the change. However, RMOs may be modified in the absence of watershed analysis where watershed or stream reach specific data support the change.

In all cases, RMO modifications, the rationale supporting those changes, and the effects of the changes will be documented. Within the range of listed salmon, modification of RMOs will be done in consultation with NMFS. The interim RMOs for stream channel conditions provide the "criteria" against which attainment, or progress toward attainment, of the riparian goals is measured. Interim RMOs provide the target toward which Agency managers will be aiming as they conduct resource management activities across the landscape. However, interim RMOs are not to establish a ceiling for what constitutes good habitat conditions. Actions that reduce habitat quality, whether existing conditions are better or worse than objective values, are inconsistent with the purpose of this interim direction. Without the benchmark provided by measurable RMOs habitat suffers a continual erosion. As indicated parenthetically below, some of the objectives apply to forested ecosystems only, some to non-forested ecosystems, and some to all ecosystems regardless of whether or not they are forested. Objectives for six environmental features have been identified, including one key feature (kf) and five supporting features (sf). These features are good indicators of ecosystem health, are quantifiable, and are subject to accurate, repeatable measurements."

Interim RMOs apply to streams in watersheds with anadromous fish. Each of the interim objectives must be met or exceeded before general habitat conditions would be considered good for anadromous fish. However, application of the interim RMOs requires thorough analysis. That is, if the objective for an important feature such as pool frequency is met or exceeded, there may be some latitude in assessing the importance of the objectives for other features that contribute to good habitat conditions. For example, in headwater steelhead streams with an abundance of pools created by large boulders, fewer pieces of large wood might still constitute good habitat. The goal is to achieve a high level of habitat diversity and complexity, through a combination of habitat features, to meet the life-history requirements of the anadromous fish community inhabiting a watershed.

INTERIM RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Habitat Feature	Interim Objectives
Pool Frequency (kf) (all systems)	Varies by channel width, see below:
wetted width in feet:	10 20 25 50 75 100 125 150 200
number pools per mile:	96 56 47 26 23 18 14 12 9
Water Temperature (sf)	No measurable increase in maximum water temperature* Maximum water temperatures below 64F within migration and rearing habitats and below 60F within spawning habitats.
Large Woody Debris (sf) (forested systems)	Coastal California, Oregon and Washington. >80 pieces per mile; >24 inch diameter; >50 foot length. East of Cascade Crest in Oregon, Washington, Idaho. >20 pieces per mile; >12 inch diameter; >35 foot length.
Bank Stability (sf) (non-forested systems)	>80 percent stable
Lower Bank Angle (sf) (non-forested systems)	>75 percent of banks with <90 degree angle (i.e., undercut).
Width/Depth Ratio (sf) (all systems)	<10, mean wetted width divided by mean depth

*7-day moving average of daily maximum temperature measured as the average of the maximum daily temperature of the warmest consecutive 7-day period.

RIPARIAN HABITAT CONSERVATION AREAS (RHCAs)

Interim RHCAs will be delineated in every anadromous watershed on Agency administered lands within the geographic range of the proposed action. RHCAs are portions of watersheds where riparian-dependent resources receive primary emphasis, and management activities are subject to specific standards and guidelines. RHCAs include traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality (Naiman et al. 1992).

Interim RHCA widths adequate to protect streams from non-channelized sediment inputs should be sufficient to provide other riparian functions, including delivery of organic matter and woody debris, stream shading, and bank stability (Brazier and Brown 1973, Gregory et al. 1984, Steinblums et. al 1984, Beschta et al. 1987, McDade et al. 1990, Sedell and Beschta 1991, Belt et al. 1992). The effectiveness of riparian conservation areas in influencing sediment delivery from non-channelized flow is highly variable. A review by Belt et al. (1992) of studies in Idaho (Haupt 1959a and 1959b, Ketcheson and Megehan 1990. Burroughs and King (1985 and 1989) and elsewhere (Trimble and Sartz 1957, Packer 1967, Swift 1986) concluded that non-channelized sediment flow rarely travels more than 300 feet and that 200-300 foot riparian "filter strips" are generally effective at protecting streams from sediment from non-channelized flow.

The interim RHCA widths may be increased where necessary to achieve riparian management goals and objectives, or decreased where interim widths are not needed to attain RMOs or avoid adverse effects to listed salmon. Generally, RHCA modifications will require completion of Watershed Analysis to provide the ecological basis for the change. However, RHCAs may be modified in the absence of Watershed Analysis where stream reach or site-specific data support the change. In all cases, RHCA modifications, the rationale supporting those changes, and the effects of the changes will be documented. Within the range of listed salmon, modification of RHCAs will be done in consultation with NMFS.

STANDARD WIDTHS DEFINING INTERIM RHCAs

Four categories of stream or water body, and the standard widths for each are:

Category 1 - **Fish-bearing streams:** Interim RHCAs consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to the top of the inner gorge, or to the outer edges of the 100-year flood plain, or to the outer edges of riparian vegetation, or to a distance equal to the height of two site-potential trees, or 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both side of the stream channel)< whichever is greatest.

Category 2 - **Permanently flowing non-fish-bearing stream:** Interim RHCAs consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to the top of the inner gorge, or to the outer edges of the 100-year flood plain, or to the outer edges of riparian vegetation, or to a distance equal to the height of one site-potential tree, or 150 feet slope distance (300 feet, including both sides of the stream channel), whichever is greatest.

Category 3 - **Ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands greater than 1 acre:** Interim RHCAs consist of the body of water or wetland and the area to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, or to the extent of the seasonally saturated soil, or to the extent of moderately and highly unstable areas, or to a distance equal to the height of one site-potential tree, or 150 feet slope distance from the edge of the maximum pool elevation of constructed ponds and reservoirs or from the edge of the wetland, pond or lake, whichever is greatest.

Category 4 - **Seasonally flowing or intermittent streams, wetlands less than 1 acre, landslides, and landslide-prone areas:** This category includes features with high variability in size and site-specific characteristics. At a minimum the interim RHCAs must include:

a. the extent of landslides and landslide-prone areas.

b. the intermittent stream channel and the area to the top of the inner gorge.

c. the intermittent stream channel or wetland and the area to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation.

d. for Key Watersheds, the area from the edges of the stream channel, wetland, landslide, or landslide-prone area to a distance equal to the height of one site-potential tree, or 100 feet slope distance, whichever is greatest.

e. for watersheds not identified as Key Watersheds, the area from the edges of the stream channel, wetland, landslide, or landslide-prone area to a distance equal to the height of one-half site potential tree, or 50 feet slope distance, whichever is greatest.

In non-forested rangeland ecosystems, the interim RHCA width for permanently flowing streams in categories 1 and 2 is the extent of the 100-year flood plain.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Project and site-specific standards and guidelines listed below will apply to all RHCAs and to projects and activities in areas outside RHCAs that would degrade them. The combination of the standards and guidelines for RHCAs specified below with the standards and guidelines of existing forest plans and LUPs will provide a benchmark for management actions that reflects increased sensitivities and a commitment to ecosystem management.

The standards and guidelines listed below would be applied to proposed projects and activities, as well as ongoing projects and activities that pose unacceptable risk to anadromous fish. Due to the short-term duration of this interim direction, provisions for development and implementation of road/transportation management plans and the relocation, elimination, or reconstruction of existing roads, facilities, and other improvements (i.e., RF-2 c, RF-3 a and c, RF-4, RF-5, GM-2, RM-1 and MM-2) will be initiated but are unlikely to be completed during the interim period. Where existing roads, facilities, and other improvements found to be causing an unacceptable risk cannot be relocated, eliminated, or reconstructed, those existing improvements will be explored as part of the long-term strategy being developed in the geographically-specific environmental analyses. Also, due to the short-term duration of this direction, adjustments to management not within the sole discretion of the Agencies (i.e., RF-1, LH-3, RA-1, WR-2, FW-3 and FW-4) will be initiated but are unlikely to be completed during the interim period.

Timber Management

TM-1. Prohibit timber harvest, including fuelwood cutting, in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas, except as described below. Do not include Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas in the land base used to determine the Allowable Sale Quantity, but any volume harvested can contribute to the timber sale program.

a. Where catastrophic events such as fire, flooding, volcanic, wind, or insect damage result in degraded riparian conditions, allow salvage and fuelwood cutting in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas only where present and future woody debris needs are met, where cutting would not retard or prevent attainment of other Riparian Management Objectives, and where adverse effects on listed anadromous fish can be avoided. For watersheds with listed salmon or designated critical habitat, complete Watershed Analysis prior to salvage cutting in RHCAs.

b. Apply silvicultural practices for Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas to acquire desired vegetation characteristics where needed to attain Riparian Management Objectives. Apply silvicultural practices in a manner that does not retard attainment of Riparian Management Objectives and that avoids adverse effects on listed anadromous fish.

Roads Management

RF-1. Cooperate with Federal, Tribal, State, and county agencies, and cost-share partners to achieve consistency in road design, operation, and maintenance necessary to attain Riparian Management Objectives.

RF-2. For each existing or planned road, meet the Riparian Management Objectives and avoid adverse effects on listed anadromous fish by:

a. completing Watershed Analyses prior to construction of new roads or landing in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas.

b. minimizing road and landing locations in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas.

c. initiating development and implementation of a Road Management Plan or a Transportation Management Plan. At a minimum, address the following items in the plan:

1. Road design criteria, elements, and standards that govern construction and reconstruction.

2. Road management objectives for each road.

3. Criteria that govern road operation, maintenance, and management.

4. Requirements for pre-, during-, and post-storm inspections and maintenance.

5. Regulation of traffic during wet periods to minimize erosion and sediment delivery and accomplish other objectives.

6. Implementation and effectiveness monitoring plans for road stability, drainage, and erosion control.

7. Mitigation plans for road failures.

d. avoiding sediment delivery to streams from the road surface.

1. Outsloping of the roadway surface is preferred, except in cases where outsloping would increase sediment delivery to streams or where outsloping is unfeasible or unsafe.

2. Route road drainage away from potentially unstable stream channels, fills, and hillslopes.

e. avoiding disruption of natural hydrologic flow paths.

f. avoiding sidecasting of soils or snow. Sidecasting of road material is prohibited on road segments within or abutting RHCAs in watersheds containing designated critical habitat for listed anadromous fish.

RF-3. Determine the influence of each road on the Riparian Management Objectives. Meet Riparian Management Objectives and avoid adverse effects on listed anadromous fish by:

a. reconstructing road and drainage features that do not meet design criteria or operation and maintenance standards, or that have been shown to be less effective than designed for controlling sediment delivery, or that retard attainment of Riparian Management Objectives, or do not protect designated critical habitat for listed anadromous fish from increased sedimentation.

b. prioritizing reconstruction based on the current and potential damage to listed anadromous fish and their designated critical habitat, the ecological value of the riparian resources affected, and the feasibility of options such as helicopter logging and road relocation out of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas.

c. closing and stabilizing or obliterating, and stabilizing roads not needed for future management activities. Prioritize these actions based on the current and potential damage to listed anadromous fish and their designated critical habitat, and the ecological value of the riparian resources affected.

RF-4. Construct new, and improve existing, culverts, bridges, and other stream crossings to accommodate a 100-year flood, including associated bedload and debris, where those improvements would/do pose a substantial risk to riparian conditions. Substantial risk improvements include those that do not meet design and operation maintenance criteria, or that have been shown to be less effective than designed for controlling erosion, or that retard attainment of Riparian Management Objectives, or that do not protect designated critical habitat from increased sedimentation. Base priority for upgrading on risks to listed anadromous fish and their designated critical habitat and the ecological value of the riparian resources affected. Construct and maintain crossings to prevent diversion of streamflow out of the channel and down the road in the event of crossing failure.

RF-5. Provide and maintain fish passage at all road crossings of existing and potential fish-bearing streams.

Grazing Management

GM-1. Modify grazing practices (e.g., accessibility of riparian areas to livestock, length of grazing season, stocking levels, timing of grazing, etc.) that retard or prevent attainment of Riparian Management Objectives or are likely to adversely affect listed anadromous fish. Suspend grazing if adjusting practices is not effective in meeting Riparian Management Objectives and avoiding adverse effects on listed anadromous fish.

GM-2. Locate new livestock handling and/or management facilities outside of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas. For existing livestock handling facilities inside the Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas, assure that facilities do not prevent attainment of Riparian Management Objectives or adversely affect listed anadromous fish. Relocate or close facilities where these objectives cannot be met.

GM-3. Limit livestock trailing, bedding, watering, salting, loading, and other handling efforts to those areas and times that will not retard or prevent attainment of Riparian Management Objectives or adversely affect listed anadromous fish.

GM-4. Adjust wild horse and burro management to avoid impacts that prevent attainment of Riparian Management Objectives or adversely affect listed anadromous fish.

Recreation Management

RM-1. Design, construct, and operate recreation facilities, including trails and dispersed sites, in a manner that does not retard or prevent attainment of the Riparian Management Objectives and avoids adverse effects on listed anadromous fish. Complete Watershed Analysis prior to construction of new recreation facilities in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas. For existing recreation facilities inside Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas, assure that the facilities or use of the facilities will not prevent attainment of Riparian Management Objectives or adversely affect listed anadromous fish. Relocate or close recreation facilities where Riparian Management Objectives cannot be met or adverse effects on listed anadromous fish avoided.

RM-2. Adjust dispersed and developed recreation practices that retard or prevent attainment of Riparian Management Objectives or adversely affect listed anadromous fish. Where adjustment measures such as education, use limitations, traffic control devices, increased maintenance, relocation of facilities, and/or specific site closure are not effective in meeting Riparian Management Objectives and avoiding adverse effects on listed anadromous fish, eliminate the practice of occupancy.

RM-3. Address attainment of Riparian Management Objectives and potential effect on listed anadromous fish and designated critical habitat in Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, and other Recreation Management plans.

Minerals Management

MM-1. Avoid adverse effects to listed species and designated critical habitat from mineral operations. If the Notice of Intent indicates a mineral operation would be located in a Riparian Habitat Conservation Area, or could affect attainment of Riparian Management Objectives, or adversely affect listed anadromous fish, require a reclamation plan, approved Plan of Operation (or other such governing document), and reclamation bond. For effects that cannot be avoided, such plans and bonds must address the costs of removing facilities, equipment, and materials; recontouring disturbed areas to near pre-mining topography; isolating and neutralizing or removing toxic or potentially toxic materials; salvage and replacement of topsoil; and seedbed preparation and revegetation to attain Riparian Management Objectives and avoid adverse effects on listed anadromous fish. Ensure Reclamation Plans contain measurable attainment and bond release criteria for each reclamation activity.

MM-2. Locate structures, support facilities, and roads outside Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas. Where no alternative to siting facilities in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas exists, locate and construct the facilities in ways that avoid impacts to Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas and streams and adverse effects on listed anadromous fish. Where no alternative to road construction exists, keep roads to the minimum necessary for the approved mineral activity. Close, obliterate and revegetate roads no longer required for mineral or land management activities.

MM-3. Prohibit solid and sanitary waste facilities in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas. If no alternative to locating mine waste (waste rock, spent ore, tailings) facilities in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas exists, and releases can be prevented and stability can be ensured, then:

a. analyze the waste material using the best conventional sampling methods and analytic techniques to determine its chemical and physical stability characteristics.

b. locate and design the waste facilities using the best conventional techniques to ensure mass stability and prevent the release of acid or toxic materials. If the best conventional technology is not sufficient to prevent such releases and ensure stability over the long term, prohibit such facilities in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas.

c. monitor waste and waste facilities to confirm predictions of chemical and physical stability, and make adjustments to operations as needed to avoid adverse effects to listed anadromous fish and to attain Riparian Management Objectives.

d. reclaim and monitor waste facilities to assure chemical and physical stability and revegetation to avoid adverse effects to listed anadromous fish, and to attain the Riparian Management Objectives.

e. require reclamation bonds adequate to ensure long-term chemical and physical stability and successful revegetation of mine waste facilities.

MM-4. For leasable minerals, prohibit surface occupancy within Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas for oil, gas, and geothermal exploration and development activities where contracts and leases do not already exist, unless there are no other options for location and Riparian Management Objectives can be attained and adverse effects to listed anadromous fish can be avoided. Adjust the operation plans of existing contracts to (1) eliminate impacts that prevent attainment of Riparian Management Objectives and (2) avoid adverse effects to listed anadromous fish.

MM-5. Permit sand and gravel mining and extraction within Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas only if no alternatives exist, if the action(s) will not retard or prevent attainment of Riparian Management Objectives, and adverse effects to listed anadromous fish can be avoided.

MM-6. Develop inspection, monitoring, and reporting requirements for mineral activities. Evaluate and apply the results of inspection and monitoring to modify mineral plans, leases, or permits as needed to eliminate impacts that prevent attainment of Riparian Management Objectives and avoid adverse effects on listed anadromous fish.

Fire/Fuels Management

FM-1. Design fuel treatment and fire suppression strategies, practices, and actions so as not to prevent attainment of Riparian Management Objectives, and to minimize disturbance of riparian ground cover and vegetation. Strategies should recognize the role of fire in ecosystem function and identify those instances where fire suppression or fuel management actions could perpetuate or be damaging to long-term ecosystem function, listed anadromous fish, or designated critical habitat.

FM-2. Locate incident bases, camps, helibases, staging areas, helispots, and other centers for incident activities outside of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas. If the only suitable location for such activities is within the Riparian Habitat Conservation Area, an exemption may be granted following a review and recommendation by a resource advisor. The advisor will prescribe the location, use conditions, and rehabilitation requirements, with avoidance of adverse effects to listed anadromous fish a primary goal. Use an interdisciplinary team, including a fishery biologist, to predetermine incident base and helibase locations during presuppression planning, with avoidance of potential adverse effects to listed anadromous fish a primary goal.

FM-3. Avoid delivery of chemical retardant, foam, or additives to surface waters. An exception may be warranted in situations where overriding immediate safety imperatives exist, or, following a review and recommendation by a resource advisor and a fishery biologist, when the action agency determines an escape fire would cause more long-term damage to anadromous fish habitats than chemical delivery to surface waters.

FM-4. Design prescribed burn projects and prescriptions to contribute to the attainment of the Riparian Management Objectives.

FM-5. Immediately establish an emergency team to develop a rehabilitation treatment plan to attain Riparian Management Objectives and avoid adverse effects on listed anadromous fish whenever Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas are significantly damaged by a wildfire or a prescribed fire burning out of prescription.

Lands

LH-1. Require instream flows and habitat conditions for hydroelectric and other surface water development proposals that maintain or restore riparian resources, favorable channel conditions, and fish passage, reproduction, and growth. Coordinate this process with the appropriate State agencies. During relicensing of hydroelectric projects, provide written and timely license conditions to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that require fish passage and flows and habitat conditions that maintain/restore riparian resources and channel integrity. Coordinate relicensing projects with the appropriate State agencies.

LH-2. Locate new hydroelectric ancillary facilities outside Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas. For existing ancillary facilities inside the FHCA that are essential to proper management, provide recommendations to FERC to assure that the facilities will not prevent attainment of the Riparian Management Objectives and that adverse effects on listed anadromous fish are avoided. Where these objectives cannot be met, provide recommendations to FERC that such ancillary facilities should be relocated. Locate, operate, and maintain hydroelectric facilities that must be located in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas to avoid effects that would retard or prevent attainment of the Riparian Management Objectives and avoid adverse effects on listed anadromous fish.

LH-3. Issue leases, permits, rights-of-way, and easements to avoid effects that would retard or prevent attainment of the Riparian Management Objectives and avoid adverse effects on listed anadromous fish. Where the authority to do so was retained, adjust existing leases, permits, rights-of-way, and easements to eliminate effects that would retard or prevent attainment of the Riparian Management Objectives or adversely affect listed anadromous fish. If adjustments are not effective, eliminate the activity. Where the authority to adjust was not retained, negotiate to make changes in existing leases, permits, rights-of-way, and easements to eliminate effects that would prevent attainment of the Riparian Management Objectives or adversely affect anadromous fish. Priority for modifying existing leases, permits, rights-of-way, and easements will be based on the current and potential adverse effects on listed anadromous fish and the ecological value of the riparian resources affected.

LH-4. Use land acquisition, exchange, and conservation easements to meet Riparian Management Objectives and facilitate restoration of fish stocks and other species at risk of extinction.

General Riparian Area Management

RA-1. Identify and cooperate with Federal, Tribal, State and local governments to secure instream flows needed to maintain riparian resources, channel conditions, and aquatic habitat.

RA-2. Trees may be felled in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas when they pose a safety risk. Keep felled trees on site when needed to meet woody debris objectives.

RA-3. Apply herbicides, pesticides, and other toxicants, and other chemicals in a manner that does not retard or prevent attainment of Riparian Management Objectives and avoids adverse effects on listed anadromous fish.

RA-4. Prohibit storage of fuels and other toxicants within Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas. Prohibit refueling within Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas unless there are no other alternatives. Refueling sites within a Riparian Habitat Conservation Area must be approved by the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management and have an approved spill containment plan.

RA-5. Locate water drafting sites to avoid adverse effects to listed anadromous fish and instream flows, and in a manner that does not retard or prevent attainment of Riparian Management Objectives.

Watershed and Habitat Restoration

WR-1. Design and implement watershed restoration projects in a manner that promotes the long-term ecological integrity of ecosystems, conserves the genetic integrity of native species, and contributes to attainment of Riparian Management Objectives.

WR-2. Cooperate with Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies, and private landowners to develop watershed-based Coordinated Resources Management Plans (CRMPs) or other cooperative agreements to meet Riparian Management Objectives.

WR-3. Do not use planned restoration as a substitute for preventing habitat degradation (i.e., use planned restoration only to mitigate existing problems, not to mitigate the effects of proposed activities).

Fisheries and Wildlife Restoration

FW-1. Design and implement fish and wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement actions in a manner that contributes to attainment of the Riparian Management Objectives.

FW-2. Design, construct, and operate fish and wildlife interpretive and other user-enhancement facilities in a manner that does not retard or prevent attainment of the Riparian Management Objectives or adversely affect listed anadromous fish. For existing fish and wildlife interpretive and other user-enhancement facilities inside Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas, assure that Riparian Management Objectives are met and adverse effects on listed anadromous fish are avoided. Where Riparian Management Objectives cannot be met or adverse effects on listed anadromous fish avoided, relocate or close such facilities.

FW-3. Cooperate with Federal, Tribal, and State wildlife management agencies to identify and eliminate wild ungulate impacts that prevent attainment of the Riparain Management Objectives or adversely affect listed anadromous fish.

FW-4. Cooperate with Federal, Tribal, and State fish management agencies to identify and eliminate adverse effects on native anadromous fish associated with habitat manipulation, fish stocking, fish harvest, and poaching.

KEY WATERSHEDS

Key Watersheds already have been designated in California, Oregon, and Washington within areas implementing the Northern Spotted Owl Record of Decision (ROD). Similar criteria will be considered to designate Key Watersheds in the 15 national forests and 7 BLM districts:

(1) watersheds with stocks listed pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, or stocks identified in the 1991 American Fisheries Society report as "at risk" or subsequent scientific stock status reviews; or

(2) watersheds that contain excellent habitat for mixed salmonid assemblages; or

(3) degraded watersheds with a high restoration potential.

Key Watersheds will be identified through broad scale ecological assessments and addressed in the geographically-specific environmental analyses. During the period of interim direction, all watersheds that contain designated critical habitat for listed anadromous fish will be treated as Key Watersheds. The intent of designating Key Watersheds is to provide a pattern of protection across the landscape where habitat for anadromous fish would receive special attention and treatment. Priority within these watersheds would be to protect or restore habitat for listed stocks, stocks of special interest or concern, or salmonid assemblages of critical value for productivity or biodiversity. Areas in good condition would serve as anchors for the potential recovery of depressed stocks, and also would provide colonists for adjacent areas where habitat had been degraded by land management or natural events. Those areas of lower quality habitat with high potential for restoration would become future sources of good habitat with the implementation of a comprehensive restoration program.

WATERSHED ANALYSIS

Watershed Analysis is a systematic procedure for determining how a watershed functions in relation to its physical and biological components. This is accomplished through consideration of history, processes, landform, and condition. The guidelines and procedural manuals being developed by the Interagency Watershed Analysis Coordination Team and other potentially relevant procedures (e.g., the Cumulative Watershed Effects Process for Idaho, etc.) will be considered and used, where appropriate, in development of a Watershed Analysis protocol. As per consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), during the period of interim direction, the Agencies will complete at least four or five prototype Watershed Analyses within the Snake River Basin.

Watershed Analysis is a prerequisite for determining which processes and parts of the landscape affect fish and riparian habitat, and is essential for defining watershed-specific boundaries for Riparian habitat Conservation Areas and for Riparian Management Objectives. Watershed Analysis forms the basis for evaluating cumulative watershed effects; defining watershed restoration needs, goals and objectives; implementing restoration strategies; and monitoring the effectiveness of watershed protection measures. Watershed Analysis employs the perspectives and tools of multiple disciplines, especially geopmorphology, hydrology, geology, aquatic and terrestrial ecology, and soil science. It is the framework for understanding and carrying out land use activities within a geomorphic context, and is a major component of the evolving science of ecosystem analysis. Watershed Analysis is an iterative process which includes monitoring, evaluation, and adjustment to incorporate detected changes.

Watershed Analysis consists of a sequence of activities designed to identify and interpret the processes operating in a specific landscape. The components and intensity of the analysis will vary depending on level of activity and significance of issues involved.

The overall goals of Watershed Analysis are to:

1. Screen current watershed condition:

   a. Characterize the geomorphic, ecologic, and hydrologic context of a watershed, and identify the uses in the watershed.

   b. Determine the type, extent, frequency, and intensity of watershed processes, including mass soil movements, fire, peak and low streamflows, surface erosion, and other processes affecting the flow of water, sediment, organic material, and nutrients through a watershed.

   c. Determine the distribution, abundance, life histories, habitat requirements, and limiting factors for fish and other aquatic and riparian dependent species.

d. Identify parts of the landscape, including hill slopes and channels, that are either sensitive to specific disturbance processes or are critical to beneficial uses, key anadromous fish stocks or other species.

2. Interpret watershed history, including the effects of previous natural disturbances and land use activities on watershed processes.

3. Provide information necessary to establish ecologically and geomorphically appropriate boundaries of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas.

4. Provide information necessary to establish ecologically and geomophically appropriate Riparian Management Objectives.

5. Identify potentially necessary adjustments to resource output projections (e.g., board-feet, animal unit months, and recreation visitor days projected in forest plans, LUPs and other planning documents).

6. Identify appropriate watershed restoration objectives, strategies, and priorities.

7. Provide information necessary to design approaches to evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of standards and guidelines for mitigating impacts of current uses and contributing to the attainment of Riparian Management Objectives, and the effectiveness of restoration efforts in correcting past degradation.

8. Monitor and identify appropriate modifications to projects and activities to improve or maintain watershed condition.

To provide accountability, Watershed Analysis includes a process by which the Agencies certify the analysis has been conducted and completed according to the expected scientific standards. The certification process will be addressed in the geographically-specific environmental analyses.

WATERSHED RESTORATION

Watershed restoration comprises actions taken to improve the current conditions of watersheds to restore degraded habitat, and to provide long-term protection to natural resources, including riparian and aquatic resources. An assumption si made that no additional funds will be available for watershed restoration during the interim period, but that some existing funds will be retargeted, as necessary, to establish a watershed restoration management program that includes:

1) A regional strategy that looks across landscapes and ownerships within the watershed to identify where restoration efforts are likely to be most effective.

2) Use of Watershed Analysis to adapt restoration strategies to specific landscapes, taking into account unique watershed histories, conditions, and resources.

3) Use of Watershed Analysis to establish a specific set of habitat objectives for each watershed.

4) Restoration/mitigation practices based on the results of Watershed Analysis, which are designed to ameliorate the impacts of human activities within the watershed.

5) Monitoring and evaluation to define and refine restoration objectives and track the effectiveness of restoration efforts.

Priority in conducting watershed restoration will be given to Key Watersheds.

MONITORING

Monitoring is an important component of the proposed interim direction. It will be used to verify that the standards and guidelines were applied during the project implementation (i.e., implementation monitoring) and to assess whether those protective measures are adequate to attain Riparian Goals and Management Objectives (i.e., effectiveness monitoring).

Those national forests and BLM districts adopting interim direction will be required to conduct implementation monitoring as outlined in the Section 7 Monitoring Protocol for the Upper Columbia River Basin (USDA Forest Service 1994) for each project. Implementation monitoring will entail onsite verification and written/photographic documentation that standards and guidelines were applied. The format provided in the Section 7 protocol, which serves as a basic outline for implementation monitoring, will be refined and used for monitoring implementation of the interim direction.

Assessing effectiveness is logistically more complex and difficult than implementation monitoring, and in many cases will require a time period greater than that of the interim direction. Individual national forests and/or BLM districts will focus their efforts and combine resources to address the most important effectiveness issues. Stratification based on eco-regions, watershed characteristics, and the presence of listed or at-risk anadromous fish will be used to identify specific monitoring sites and priorities. Study designs with clear objectives, statistically valid sampling techniques, replication, and comparisons with "reference" conditions will direct effectiveness monitoring efforts.

The Section 7 monitoring protocol provides detailed descriptions of how each RMO element is to be monitored. This document is to be used as a guide. Individual monitoring efforts will be coordinated by the Interagency Implementation Team to make every effort to ensure applicable effectiveness issues are addressed. Monitoring results will be summarized annually, with conclusions drawn in regard to how effective standards and guidelines are in contributing to meeting Riparian Goals and Management Objectives. Complex ecological processes and long time frames are inherent in the RMOs, and it is unrealisitic to expect that the planned monitoring will generate conclusive results within 18 months. Nevertheless, it is critical to begin monitoring to establish a baseline against which effectiveness can be assessed through time.

A third type of monitoring (i.e., validation monitoring) is intended to ascertain the validity of the assumptions used in developing the interim direction. Because of the short-term nature of the management direction, no specific requirements are included for validation monitoring. The geographically-specific environmental analyses will address longer-term validation monitoring and research needs.

INLAND NATIVE FISH STRATEGY

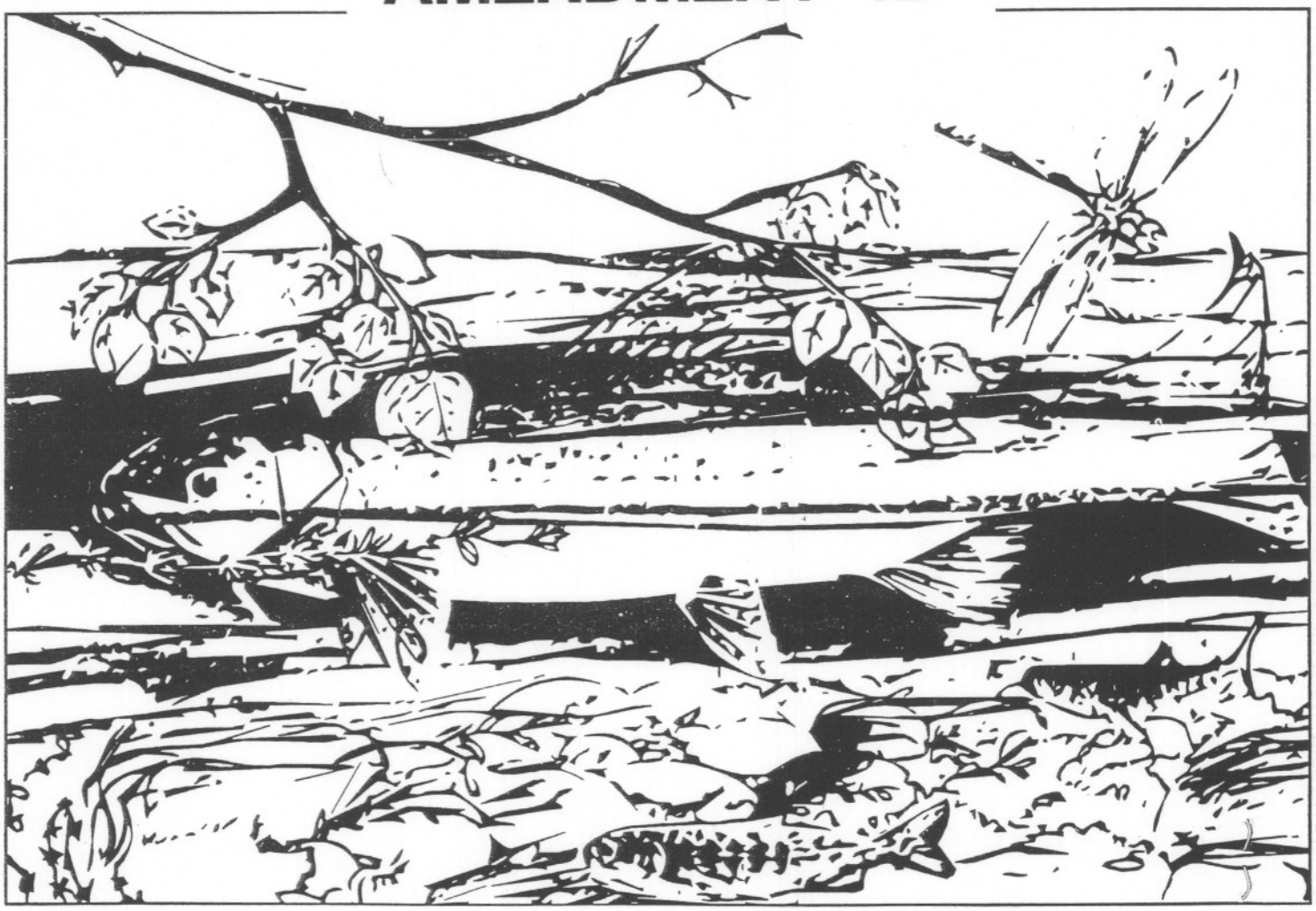
Environmental Assessment

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact

1995
AMENDMENT 12



Intermountain, Northern, and Pacific Northwest Regions

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Inland Native Fish Strategy
FAX (208) 765-7307
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 765-7223

August 21, 1995

On July 28, 1995, the Regional Foresters for the Northern, Intermountain, and Pacific Northwest regions of the Forest Service announced their decision on the Inland Native Fish Strategy. Based on public comment analysis and internal review, they have decided, with the support of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, to select Alternative D as described in the Environmental Assessment for the Inland Native Fish Strategy.

Enclosed is your copy of the Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact, and its correction page. A summary of comments received from individuals and organizations who reviewed the Environmental Assessment and Draft FONSI is also enclosed.

In addition to the Inland Native Fish Strategy effort, the Forest Service is pursuing a cooperative effort with the various states to assure a coordinated multi-agency effort to address inland native fish issues. A proposal was sent to the Governors of Idaho and Montana on June 23, 1995 to develop conservation strategies that could be used to replace this interim management direction with longer term direction. Similar proposals will be made to the Governors of Oregon and Washington. As part of this cooperative effort, we will actively seek participation of local state fish and game personnel in the development of watershed analysis efforts.

Through review of the public comment, we recognize the selection of Alternative D will concern many people who felt this alternative provided either too much or not enough protection. Generally, those who felt too much protection had been provided favored Alternative C, and those desiring more protection favored Alternative E. Both Alternatives C and E have features that are attractive for longer-term reduction of risk to habitat. The Regional Foresters have directed me to develop a strategy to apply the concepts and philosophy of those two alternatives on a limited test basis. Alternative D will be implemented for all of the areas outside the test watersheds. Application of Alternative D will provide the short-term reduction of risk we desire, while this test of Alternatives C and E will allow us to develop the information we need to provide better long-term direction.

This decision notice reflects the final decision of the Forest Service. The decision may be appealed in accordance with the provisions identified in the Decision Notice. The appeal period will begin August 24 and end on October 9, 1995.

Thank you for your continued interest.

DAVID J. WRIGHT
Inland Native Fish Strategy
Team Leader

Enclosure

DECISION NOTICE CORRECTION
FOR THE
INLAND NATIVE FISH STRATEGY

INTERIM STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING FISH-PRODUCING WATERSHEDS IN EASTERN OREGON AND WASHINGTON, IDAHO, WESTERN MONTANA AND PORTIONS OF NEVADA

USDA FOREST SERVICE

REASON FOR CORRECTION

During internal review of the Decision Notice, it appeared that it might not be clear that the selected alternative **does** replace the interim direction established May 20, 1994 by Region 6 Regional Forester John E. Lowe in the *Decision Notice for the Continuation of Interim Management Direction Establishing Riparian, Ecosystem, and Wildlife Standards for Timber Sales.* This correction is to clarify the intent of the selected alternative.

CORRECTION

In the Decision Notice, page 2, paragraph 3 under **"THE DECISION,"** the first sentence is corrected to read:

> *"This decision amends Regional Guides for the Forest Service's Northern, Intermountain, and Pacific Northwest Regions, the 22 Forest Plans in the affected National Forests, and replaces the interim riparian standard established May 20, 1994 by Region 6 Regional Forester John E. Lowe in the Decision Notice for the Continuation of Interim Management Direction Establishing Riparian, Ecosystem, and Wildlife Standards for Timber Sales."*

On page 4, paragraph 2, under the main heading **"SITE-SPECIFIC PROJECT-LEVEL DECISIONS,"** the second sentence will be replaced by the following two sentences:

> *"These interim standards and guidelines replace existing conflicting direction described in these 22 Forest Plans, including the interim riparian standard established May 20, 1994 by Region 6 Regional Forester John E. Lowe in the Decision Notice for the Continuation of Interim Management Direction Establishing Riparian, Ecosystem, and Wildlife Standards for Timber Sales. Current Forest Plan direction, except for the replaced Region 6 interim riparian direction, will still apply if it provides more protection for inland native fish habitat (Environmental Assessment, Appendix E)."*

* * *

Salmon and Challis National Forests

CHALLIS LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Amendment 13

September 18, 1996

Amend the Challis National Forest Plan to add:

Management Area 13, Chapter IV-121

Communication Site

This amendment formally designates Big Hill as a communication site. The site is located seven miles west of Challis on approximately 1/10 of an acre on Big Hill Mountain in T13N, R18E, Section 7. It is within Resource Management Area 13.

END OF AMENDMENT

******

DECISION NOTICE

CHALLIS COMMUNITY TV CLUB COMMUNICATION SITE

Custer County Idaho
USDA, Forest Service
Challis Ranger District
Salmon and Challis National Forests

An Environmental Assessment (40 CFR 1508.9) discussing a proposal by the Challis Community TV Club to utilize a site on Big Hill to receive and rebroadcast television signals from Boise, Idaho to Challis and the surrounding area, has been completed and is available for review at the Challis Ranger District Office in Challis, Idaho. This proposal would also amend the Challis National Forest Land Resource Management Plan to designate a communication site at the location.

The proposed Big Hill communication site is located seven miles west of Challis on Big Hill Mountain in T13N, R18E, Section 7. It is within Resource Management Area 13. The Environmental Assessment has not changed since it was sent out for predecisional review on April 25, 1996.

I. Decision

It is my decision to proceed with Alternative II. Under this alternative, a Special Use Permit would be issued to the Challis Community TV Club to place communications improvements on Big Hill in order to receive and rebroadcast Channel 12, KRTM from Boise, Idaho to the Challis and Round Valley area. The total size of the area that may be disturbed is approximately 1/10 of an acre. Improvements would consist of two towers 27'6" tall and one solar array panel for power (8'X16'). The towers would consist of a support structure 11 feet tall and 1/2" pipe poles with antennas. All improvements would be in accordance with the existing developed site plan. A nonsignificant amendment would be made to the Challis Land Resource Management Plan to allow designation of the area as a communication site.

II. Rationale for selecting Alternative II

Alternative II is consistent with overall management direction and desired future condition as stated in the Challis National Forest Land Resource Management Plan for Management Area 13.

This alternative is in accordance with Forest Wide Management Direction (p. IV-26) which states "Give priority to permits needed to "...provide community service...". It also is in conformance with the desire future condition of the Forest (p. IV-43) which states "Issuing of Special Use Permits is anticipated

to increase because of increases in activities in small hydroelectric projects and needs for electronic sites", (emphasis added). Physical impacts of the establishment of the site will be extremely limited and visual consequences will also be minor.

The selected alternative adequately addresses the issues and meets the project objectives.

III. Alternatives Considered

Two alternatives were analyzed and documented in the environmental assessment (EA) including a no action alternative. The alternatives were designed by the interdisciplinary team to address specific issues. Briefly, the alternatives were as follows:

Alternative I - No Action

No improvements would be made at this time. No Special Use Permit would be issued to authorize placement of a repeater on the site and the Forest Plan would not be amended to allow designation of the area as a communication site in accordance with the developed site plan.

Alternative II - Placement of Repeater on Big Hill

A Special Use Permit would be issued to the Challis Community TV Club to place communications improvements on Big Hill in order to receive and rebroadcast Channel 12, KRTM from Boise, Idaho to the Challis and Round Valley area. All improvements would be in accordance with the developed site plan. No road construction is proposed and installation and maintainance will utilize the existing transportation stytem. In addition the Challis Land Resource Management Plan would be amended to allow designation of the area as a communication site.

IV. Public Involvement

A legal ad soliciting public input regarding the proposal was published in the newspaper of record, The Challis Messenger, on January 13, 1994. No comments were received as a result of the scoping. The secondary mailing list was comprised of the proponent and the County Commissioners. Those parties on this list were sent a copy of the pre-decisional EA on April 25, 1996 and asked to comment by May 28, 1996. In addition, a legal ad was placed in the Challis Messenger and the Salmon Recorder Herald on April 25, 1996 with the same May 28, 1996 response deadline.

V. Finding of No Significant Impact

After review of the information contained within the EA, and the lack of any comments received as a result of public scoping and requests for input, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared. The FONSI is attached to this Decision Notice.

VI. Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

I have determined that this project is consistent with the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). The project is consistent with the goals, objectives, standards and guidelines contained within the approved Challis National Forest Land Resource Management Plan.

Requirements of the Endangered Species Act have been met. Biological Assessments and have been prepared for all Threatened and Endangered species within or adjacent to the project area.

This project is consistent with the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

VII. Implementation

This decision may be implemented immediately upon publication of the notice of the decision.

VIII. Administrative Review

This decision is not subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 215.8 (3).

IX. Further Information

For further information, contact Russ Camper, Challis Ranger District, H/C 63, Box 1669, Challis, Idaho 83226; phone (208) 879-4321.

George Matejko

GEORGE MATEJKO
Forest Supervisor
Salmon and Challis National Forests

9/10/96
Date

AMENDMENT NUMBERS 14, 15, 16

SALMON AND CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST
CHALLIS LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

NOVEMBER 1996

The Challis National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) was approved on June 3, 1987. Changes affecting the Salmon and Challis National Forest since that time have required periodic amendments to the Forest Plans to keep it current. This amendment pertains to Research Natural Areas within the Forest. On November 21, 1996, the Regional Forester designated three additional sites on the Salmon and Challis National Forest.

CHANGE #1

Chapter II, Section E., Subsection 2.b., Research Natural Areas, first sentence of paragraph 3 (page II-38 of Forest Plan as revised 6/8/92): Replace with the following:

> **"The Challis National Forest has eleven RNAs: Iron Bog and Meadow Canyon (established in 1981); Soldier Lakes, Surprise Valley, Merriam Lake Basin, Middle Canyon, Smiley Mountain, and Mohogany Creek (established in 1992); and Sheep Mountain, Cache Creek Lakes and Mystery Lake (established in 1996)."**

CHANGE #2

Chapter II, Section E., Subsection 2.b., Research Natural Areas (page II-39 of Forest Plan as revised 6/8/92):
Delete:

> **"A team from the Forest and Idaho Research Natural Areas Committee identified the following three sites as proposed Research Natural Areas:"**

The following RNAs, along with their descriptions need to be moved to the previous paragraph that lists the established RNA's (omit the numbers):

1) Sheep Mountain
2) Cache Creek Lakes
3) Mystery Lake

Land and Resource Management Plan
Challis National Forest
1987 Plan

Amendment # 17

Page Code

Reference Pages: IV-47 to IV-52 for Management Area 1

Amendment

Page IV-48, first paragraph, sentence 3: Replace "This wilderness plan was completed and approved on March 11, 1985 and is hereby incorporated as part of this Forest Plan" with:

"This wilderness plan was completed and approved in November 2003 and is hereby incorporated as part of this Forest Plan."

Reason for Amendment

Previous direction in the:

1. Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Management as amended, July 1994;
2. Middle Fork of the Salmon River Management Operating Plan (5/20/93); and
3. Salmon Wild & Scenic River Management Plan (3/30/82)

is now consolidated into a single management plan with corrections, changes and amendments.

Lesley W. Thompson
Acting Forest Supervisor
Salmon-Challis National Forest

1/23/04
Date signed:

Amendment #18

Decision Notice
And
Finding of No Significant Impact

For The

Proposed Amendments to the Management Indicator Species List for the Salmon and Challis Land and Resource Management Plans

And

Finding of Non-Significant Amendment of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Salmon National Forest And Finding of Non-Significant Amendment of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Challis National Forest

USDA Forest Service
Salmon-Challis National Forest
Idaho

Background

The Forest Supervisor for the Salmon-Challis National Forest (S-C NF)has determined the need to reevaluate and refine the Management Indicator Species list for the Salmon and Challis Land and Resource Management Plans. In ways that improve its reliability, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness in meeting information needs for the biological effects of active management.

Management Indicator Species (MIS) are defined as “plant and animal species, communities, or special habitats selected for emphasis in planning, and which are monitored during forest plan implementation in order to assess the effects of management activities on their populations and the populations of other species with similar habitat needs which they may represent” (FSM 2620.5). The role of management indicator species in National Forest planning is described in the 1982 implementing regulations for the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976:

> “In order to estimate the effects of each [Forest Plan] alternative on fish and wildlife populations, certain vertebrate and/or invertebrate species present in the area shall be identified and selected as management indicator species and the reasons for their selection will be stated. These species shall be selected because their population changes are believed to indicate the effects of management activities. In the selection of management indicator species, the following categories shall be represented where appropriate: Endangered and threatened plant and animal species identified on State and Federal lists for the planning area; species with special needs that may be influenced significantly by planned management programs; species commonly hunted, fished or trapped; non-game species of special interest; and additional plant or animal species selected because their population changes are believed to indicate the effects of management activities on other species of selected major biological communities or on water quality (36 CF 219.12(a)(1)).”

These regulations require the use of MIS populations to reflect the effects of management activities on habitats and population trends. Since adoption of the Forest Plans, Biologists have learned that some of the original MIS occur too infrequently to be reliable indicators for the purposes or habitat types they were selected to represent. Some have proven impractical to monitor economically or efficiently, while others have turned out to be poor indicators due to many different factors affecting populations. Biologists have also found there are species not listed as MIS that appear to be good substitutes for some of those species that now seem inadequate.

Decision and Reasons For the Decision

Based upon my review of the Environmental Assessment and supporting documents, I have decided to implement **Alternative 3: Amphibian Alternative.** This alternative replaces the existing list of Management Indicator Species for both the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Salmon National Forest (Table 1) and the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Challis National Forest (Table 2), and clarifies monitoring and evaluation procedures associated with each of the selected species. The species selected in Alternative 3 include, (1) Pileated Woodpecker as MIS for the coniferous community/habitat type; (2) Greater Sage-Grouse for the sagebrush community/habitat type; (3) Columbia Spotted Frog for the riparian habitat/community type; and (4) Bull Trout for the aquatic habitat/community type. This would

bring both Forest Plans in line with new information and current interpretations of agency regulations and policies concerning MIS, and make the lists consistent for both Forests.

Table 1. Management Indicator Species in the Salmon Land and Resource Management Plan

Common Name	Scientific Name
Rocky Mountain Elk	*Cervus elaphus*
Mule Deer	*Odocoileus hemionus*
Bighorn Sheep	*Ovis canadensis*
Mountain Goat	*Oreamnos americanus*
Pine Marten	*Martes americana*
Pileated Woodpecker	*Dryocopus pileatus*
Vesper Sparrow	*Pooecetes gramineus*
Yellow Warbler	*Dendroica petechia*
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	*Regulus calendula*
Goshawk	*Accipiter gentilis*
Great Grey Owl	*Strix nebulosa*
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*
Pygmy Nuthatch	*Sitta pygmaea*
Brown Creeper	*Certhia americana*
Mountain Bluebird	*Sialia currocoides*
Anadromous Fish (salmon and steelhead)	*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha, O. mykiss, O. nerka*
Trout (all species combined)	*Oncorhynchus mykiss, O. clarki, Salvelinus confluentus*
Aquatic Macroinvertebrates***	

***Specific genus and species to be identified at the project level

Table 2. Management Indicator Species in the Challis Land and Resource Management Plan

Common Name	Scientific Name
Rocky Mountain Elk	*Cervus elaphus*
Mule Deer	*Odocoileus hemionus*
Bighorn Sheep	*Ovis canadensis*
Mountain Goat	*Oreamnos americanus*
Red Squirrel	*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*
Big Sagebrush and Sub-species	*Artemisia tridentata, vaseyana, wyomingensis*
Bitterbrush	*Purshia tridentata*
Bluebunch Wheatgrass	*Agropyron spicatum*
Idaho Fescue	*Festuca idahoensis*
Western Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*
Canadian Thistle	*Cirsium arvense*
Rainbow Trout	*Oncorhynchus mykiss*
Cutthroat Trout	*Oncorhynchus clarki*
Bull Trout	*Salvelinus confluentus*
Steelhead	*Oncorhynchus mykiss*
Chinook	*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*
Mayfly	*Rhithrogena spp.*
Mayfly	*Epeorus spp.*
Mayfly	*Ephemerella doddsi*
Stonefly	*Zapada spp.*
Mayfly	*Ephemerella inermis*
True Fly	*Chironomidae spp.*

Alternative 3 also keeps the habitat requirement information in both existing plans for species that were MIS.

When compared to other alternatives, Alternative 3 best achieves the purpose and need of meeting requirements for monitoring wildlife habitat and the use of MIS (36 CFR 219 subsection 19).

Population data for the pileated woodpecker is currently available or protocols exist for collection of scientifically credible data. Pileated woodpeckers are detected by the annual Breeding Bird Surveys that are conducted on this forest each year, in conjunction with a large-scale national monitoring effort for birds. This bird is a loud, vociferous species that is easily detected by “point count transects”, several of which have been conducted on at least one Ranger District. The relationship of this species with mixed conifer forests communities containing large diameter live trees, standing dead and down logs, particularly in multi-storied stands, is fairly well understood, as is the effect of timber management activities on the characteristics of such stands. Pileated woodpeckers commonly occur in the ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and mixed pine and fir stands where most forested vegetative management occurs on this forest, and are affected by changes in habitats they provide.

Population data for the greater sage-grouse is currently available or protocols exist for collection of scientifically credible data. Greater sage-grouse have been monitored, primarily via lek counts, for several decades on this forest and adjacent public and private lands. The protocol for this monitoring effort is well established and used throughout the range of this species. These efforts are conducted by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), in conjunction with Forest Service (FS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) personnel and population data collected are housed by them but readily available to interested parties. This species occurs in the heart of western grazing lands and much research has been conducted concerning the relationship of this species to sagebrush communities and the effects of vegetative manipulation on source habitats.

Population data is currently available for the Columbia spotted frog and protocols exist for collection of scientifically credible data. As a Forest Service Sensitive Species in Region 4 and on the S-C NF, the Columbia spotted frog has been the subject of considerable inventory and monitoring effort for the past decade. This species is known to occupy slow-moving cool water streams, beaver ponds and marshy edges of lakes across the forest and have been found to use adjacent upland habitats as well. Survey and monitoring protocols for amphibians, including this species, are well established and long-term monitoring sites have been selected and surveyed across the forest. In addition, species occurrence data has been collected concurrently with stream inventory efforts for fish species. The Columbia spotted frog occurs in a variety of forest and non-forest communities that are subjected to many different resource management activities ranging from grazing to timber harvest and are known to be sensitive to changes in habitat parameters such as riparian vegetation, water temperatures and quality.

Population data for the bull trout is currently available or protocols exist for collection of scientifically credible data. Bull trout have, since being listed as a “Threatened” species, been intensively monitored through a cooperative monitoring program with FS, IDFG, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and other agencies. Protocols for electro-fishing, snorkeling and redd counts are well established and much data has been accumulated. Bull trout occur in streams within virtually all coniferous forest communities, which are subject to resource management activities,

including timber and grazing. They are known to be sensitive to stream habitat and watershed alterations.

Other Alternatives Considered

Fourteen other species, identified through public comment, were evaluated as possible MIS species which included, pronghorn, snowshoe hare, white-tailed jackrabbit, ruffed grouse, willow flycatcher, Clark's nutcracker, aspen, willow, black cottonwood, whitebark pine, mountain mahogany, spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, and cryptogamic soils. These species were dismissed because population monitoring is lacking, relationships between population trends and habitat management activities are lacking, or the species are not associated with management areas where habitat manipulation is occurring or allowed.

The Evaluation Assessment focused on the selected Alternative 3, the Proposed Action – Alternative 2, and the No Action Alternative – Alternative 1.

Alternative 1 - No Action would keep each existing species and the monitoring and evaluation criteria associated with each species in both Forest Plans. It was found that many of the species did not meet the criteria for MIS because population monitoring is lacking, relationships between population trends and habitat management activities are lacking, or the species are not associated with management areas where habitat manipulation is occurring or allowed.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action would replace the existing list of Management Indicator Species for both the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Salmon National Forest and the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Challis National Forest, and would clarify monitoring and evaluation procedures associated with each of the selected species. This alternative is very similar to the selected alternative, but includes the beaver instead of the Columbia spotted frog to represent the riparian habitat/community type.

Protocols exist for collection of scientifically credible data for the Beaver, but population data does not exist. Beaver populations are also affected by hunting which make cause-effect relationships between populations trends and management activity effects on habitat difficult without the implementation of plan components outlined in the formerly proposed interagency beaver management agreement for the Salmon–Challis National Forest public lands. (These components call for the determination of existing habitat and activity conditions, potentials and preferences for watersheds across the forest, followed by the determination of watershed-specific beaver management goals and objectives). The task of initiating population data collecting and implementing the interagency beaver management agreement would require time and resources that are already scarce.

Public Involvement

A scoping letter was mailed September 19, 2003 to the 114 addresses on the Forest Mailing list. The proposed action was enclosed with a cover letter inviting comments by October 20, 2003. Four public letters, three internal comments, one public phone call with comments, and one public phone call requesting a copy of the Environmental Assessment were received.

Finding of No Significant Impact

After considering the effects described in the Environmental Assessment, I have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment considering the context and intensity of impacts (40 CFR 1508.27). Thus, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. I base my finding on the following:

The disclosure of effects in the EA found the actions limited in context.

1. There are no adverse environmental impacts or beneficial environmental impacts although the changes in MIS will provide for improved understanding of relationships between management actions and specific habitats.

2. This action has no bearing on public health or safety since it is simply a change in what species will be monitored for the purpose of correlating wildlife population trends with effects of management activities on habitat.

3. This action has no effect on unique characteristics of the geographic area (historic cultural resource, park land, prime farm lands, wetlands, or wild and scenic rivers) because which species is monitored to meet MIS requirements will not result in any impacts to these resources.

4. The effects of this action on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial because there is no effect on the human environment. The effect is one of improving the use of wildlife population monitoring to understand effects of management activities on habitats.

5. The effects of this action are not highly uncertain nor do they involve unique or unknown risks because monitoring of the selected species has been conducted successfully for a number of years. Monitoring of these species has no effect on the species themselves or the resource they occupy.

6. The action is not likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects because the action is to choose a species for monitoring that is well-suited to the purposes stated for Management Indicator Species. The effects of this monitoring are expected to be a better understanding of effects of management activities on habitat and population trends and no precedent for future actions with significant effects is established.

7. This action is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts because this change in MIS will result in improved compliance with 36 CFR 219 but will have no environmental effects.

8. The action will have no significant adverse effect on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, because the focus of the decision is to replace the monitoring requirements in both the Salmon Forest Plan and the Challis Forest Plan Management Indicator Species with an updated list that will improve the use of wildlife population monitoring to understand effects of management activities on habitats. The action will not cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resource because it is

about which species to monitor for evaluating effects of management activities on habitats and populations and results in no environmental effects.

9. The action will not adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has not been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 because there is no effect other that the potential for improved understanding of effects of management activities on habitats and populations.

10. The action will not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. This action amends the Salmon National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and the Challis National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

The National Forest Management Act regulations at 36 CFR 219.10(f) state: “Based on and analysis of the objectives, guidelines, and other contents of the forest plan, the Forest Supervisor shall determine whether a proposed amendment would result in a significant change in the Plan.” The Forest Service Handbook (FSH 1909.12) provides a framework for consideration , and section 5.32 lists four factors to be considered when determining whether a proposed change to a Forest Plan is significant or non significant: (a) timing; (b) location and size; (c) goals, objectives, and outputs; and (d) management prescriptions. I have evaluated the proposed amendments and concluded they do not constitute a significant amendment for either the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Salmon National Forest or the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Challis National Forest.

(a) Timing: The timing factor examines at what point, over the course of the forest plan period, the Plan is amended. The Challis and Salmon Land and Resource Management Plans were completed in 1987 and 1988. Revision of these plans is scheduled to begin in 2005, however, the revised forest plans may not be in effect for up to five years. The need for a revised MIS list is appropriate because that list will be needed until the revision is complete, however the changed monitoring is unlikely to lead to significant change in the management actions on the Salmon or Challis National Forests compared to the level of actions that have already occurred in the last 15 years. The timing factors imply that these amendments are non-significant.

(b) Location and size: The key to location and size is context, or "the relationship of the affected area to the overall planning area." The change in MIS has no direct effect on any specific area of the Forest, however this amendment is designed to focus MIS monitoring on areas where management activities are most likely to occur. Active resource management at this time is limited primarily to those areas that are not currently designated as Wilderness or roadless. This is approximately 854,000 acres or 20% of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. In terms of location and size, the action of monitoring and evaluating MIS related to these amendments does not result in a significant change in the plans.

(c) Goals, objectives, and outputs: This factor involves the determination of "whether the change alters the long-term relationship between the level of goods and services in the overall planning area". This amendment will not result in any change to levels of goods and services in the overall planning area. It replaces the list of Management Indicator Species for both

Forest Plans and clarifies monitoring and evaluation procedures associated with each of the selected species. No changes to level of goods and services imply that these amendments do not result in a significant change in the plans.

(d) Management prescriptions: This factor involves the determination of (1) “whether the change in a management prescription is only for a specific situation or whether it would apply to future decisions throughout the planning area" and (2), "whether or not the change alters the desired future condition of the land and resources or the anticipated goods and services to be produced." These amendments do not change any management prescription, nor do they change desired future conditions or anticipated goods and services. With regard to these factors it can also be determined to be non-significant amendments.

Based on review of the Environmental Assessment and supporting documents and considering the above guidance and findings, it is my determination that these amendments do not result in a significant change to the Forest Plans and is therefore are non-significant amendments.

Implementation Date

This project will be implemented 7 working days after the decision has been published.

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217.3. A written appeal must be postmarked or received in duplicate by the Appeal Reviewing Officer within 45 days (time period begins the day after the notice is published) of the date of publication on the legal notice regarding this decision in the Recorder Herald, Salmon Idaho and The Challis Messenger, Challis, Idaho. Appeals must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 217.9 and be mailed to:

Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
324 25th Street
Ogden, Utah 84401

Contact

For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact Karryl Krieger, Planning Team Leader, Salmon-Challis National Forest, 50 Highway 93 South, Salmon, Idaho 83467, (208) 756 5102.

/s/ Lesley W. Thompson — February 2, 2004

LESLEY W. THOMPSON — Date
Acting Forest Supervisor