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Forest Service

Pacific Northwest Region

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Final Environmental Impact Statement

Wild and Scenic Snake River Recreation Management Plan

Appendices



Hells Canyon National Recreation Area

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Wild and Scenic Snake River

Hells Canyon National Recreation Area

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Oregon Nez Perce and Payette National Forests, Idaho Counties of Baker and Wallowa in Oregon Counties of Nez Perce, Idaho, and Adams in Idaho

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Abstract

This final environmental impact statement describes and documents the analysis of seven alternatives developed for possible management of the Wild and Scenic Snake River in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. All alternatives except Alternative A would amend the Forest Plan. Alternative A is the "no action" alternative. It retains current management strategies and would not meet desired future conditions for the corridor. Alternative B defines the proposed action. Alternative C emphasizes a balanced level of motorized and non-motorized use for the entire River corridor. Alternative D provides an opportunity for a non-motorized recreational experience in a section of the wild river and a mix of motorized and non-motorized use on the remaining wild section and entire scenic section. Alternative E is designed to allow exclusive motorized/non-motorized use on an alternating weekly schedule during the regulated season in a portion of the wild section. Alternative F would provide exclusive, year-long non-motorized use in the wild river section. Alternative G was developed between the draft and final environmental impact statements in response to public comments and emphasizes a balance of motorized and non-motorized use. It includes periods of exclusive non-motorized use in a portion of the wild river. Alternative G is the Forest Service preferred alternative.