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Subject: Species of Conservation Concern, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

To: Forest Supervisor, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Following the release of the draft Record of Decision (ROD) for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests revised forest plan, I received several objections regarding the identification of the Forests' species of conservation concern (SCC). Objectors felt that additional species should be identified as SCC, due in part to differences in their interpretation of the 2012 planning rule. These objections were reviewed by Associate Deputy Chief Jacqueline Emanuel, representing the Chief of the Forest Service Randy Moore.

The Associate Deputy Chief formed a team to review the objection issues and the planning record related to the identification of SCC. This team found I had sufficiently documented the rational and scientific information for the identified SCC. However, I did receive instructions to review the scientific information and indigenous knowledge provided by the Nez Perce Tribe for several additional species.

As instructed, resource specialists in the Regional Office reviewed the existing documentation and added additional information where needed to clarify why a species does or does not meet the definition of a SCC found at 36 CFR 219.9(c). As a result of this review, rationale documents were updated as instructed. Based on this review, I have identified three additional SCC: spring/summer Chinook salmon, Columbia onion, and Jessica's aster.

Some objectors questioned why I didn't identify mountain goats as an SCC on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests when I identified them as an SCC on the adjacent Lolo National Forest. It's important to note that the identification of an SCC is specific to each plan area. In addition to considering the threats common to all populations of a species, I must consider the habitat and population conditions of the individual plan area. Those conditions differ on the two forests. I have reviewed the scientific information regarding the mountain goat populations occupying the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests and I affirm there is not substantial concern about the species' capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area. I am not identifying them as an SCC for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests at this time.

Please note that the identification of SCC is a dynamic process. New scientific information may prompt future changes in the SCC list, which would be completed following the process described in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, chapter 20, section 21.22b.



I look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in conserving the diversity of species on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

/s/ Timothy Garcia (for):
LEANNE M. MARTEN
Regional Forester

Enclosure

cc: Timory Peel, Christopher Savage

Table 1. Plant Species of Conservation Concern for the Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests’ Revised Land Management Plan

Common Name	Scientific Name
Columbia onion	<i>Allium columbaium</i>
Sweetgrass	<i>Anthoxanthum hirtum</i>
Maindenhair spleenwort	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>
Deer-fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>
Lance-leaved moonwort	<i>Botrychium lanceolatum</i> var. <i>lanceolatum</i>
Mingan moonwort	<i>Botrychium minganense</i>
Mountain moonwort	<i>Botrychium montanum</i>
Northern moonwort	<i>Botrychium pinnatum</i>
Least moonwort	<i>Botrychium simplex</i>
Broad-fruit mariposa lily	<i>Calochortus nitidus</i>
Palouse thistle	<i>Cirsium brevifolium</i>
Pacific dogwood	<i>Cornus nuttallii</i>
Idaho hawksbeard	<i>Crepis bakeri</i> ssp. <i>idahoensis</i>
Clustered lady’s-slipper	<i>Cypripedium fasciculatum</i>
Daubenmire’s dasynotus	<i>Dasynotus daubenmirei</i>
Idaho Douglasia	<i>Douglasia idahoensis</i>
Crested shield fern	<i>Dryopteris cristata</i>
Giant helleborine	<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>
Howell’s gumweed	<i>Grindelia howellii</i>
Salmon-flower desert-parsley	<i>Lomatium salmoniflorum</i>
Chickweed monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus alsinoides</i>
Spacious monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus ampliatus</i>
Gold-back fern	<i>Pentagramma triangularis</i> ssp. <i>triangularis</i>
Sweet coltsfoot	<i>Petasites frigidus</i> var. <i>palmatus</i>
Nail lichen	<i>Pilophorus acicularis</i>
Licorice fern	<i>Polypodium glycyrrhiza</i>
Sticky goldenweed	<i>Pyrrocoma hirta</i> var. <i>sonchifolia</i>
Salmon River sedum	<i>Sedum valens</i>
Jessica’s aster	<i>Symphyotrichum jessicae</i>
Sierra wood-fern	<i>Thelypteris nevadensis</i>
Douglas’ clover	<i>Trifolium douglasii</i>
Plumed clover	<i>Trifolium plumosum</i> ssp. <i>amplifolium</i>

Table 2. Animal Species of Conservation Concern for the Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests’ Revised Land Management Plan

Common Name	Scientific Name
Bighorn Sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis</i>
Fisher	<i>Pekania pennanti</i>
Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>
Mountain Quail	<i>Oreortyx pictus</i>
Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>
White-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides albolarvatus</i>
Pacific Lamprey	<i>Lampetra tridentata</i>