



**NEWS
RELEASE**



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Salmon - Challis National Forest
1206 South Challis St.
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Contact: Amy Baumer (Public Affairs Officer)

208-756-5145

December 21, 2017

FEEDBACK PERIOD EXTENDED UNTIL MAY 4TH ON THE DRAFT ASSESSMENT AND PRELIMINARY NEEDS FOR CHANGE STATEMENT FOR THE SALMON AND CHALLIS FOREST PLANS REVISION EFFORT

SALMON, Idaho – The Salmon-Challis National Forest released the Forest Plan Revision Draft Assessment and Preliminary Needs for Change Statement on November 3, 2017. The assessment is a rapid and focused description of existing economic, social, and ecological conditions and trends in and around the national forest. After the November 3 release of the draft assessment, Forest leadership and the revision team hosted public meetings throughout Central Idaho and met with a number of individuals and groups; including, state, local, and tribal government representatives.

Salmon-Challis National Forest Supervisor Chuck Mark announced last week that he is extending the feedback period for the assessment, wilderness inventory, and wild and scenic river eligibility to May 4, 2018. "I am encouraged by the number of people who are showing interest in this important planning process. I have talked to a wide variety of interests who are willing to share their knowledge about current conditions and trends on the Forest. Some of them have asked for more time to participate in this process, and I want people to feel like they have an adequate understanding and the right amount of time to review the information we've put forward."

Forest Plan Revision Ream Leader Josh Milligan said that the extension will not impact the overall timeline or delay other parts of the planning process from moving forward. Next steps will include a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in February, and the release of a draft species of conservation concern list in March. In addition, the Salmon-Challis National Forest will continue engaging with the public.

Documents and other plan revision information are available on the Salmon-Challis Forest Plan Revision web pages, available at bit.ly/fpr201821. The website also has links to provide feedback. For more information or to request a forest plan revision presentation, contact Josh Milligan at 756-5560 or email scnf_plan_rev@usda.gov.

####