



United States Department of Agriculture

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News Release

SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST LOOKING SEPARATELY AT SALMON AND CHALLIS FOREST PLANS

Salmon, ID-August 20, 2020

In April, the Salmon-Challis National Forest posted a review of both the Challis and the Salmon Forest Plans at <http://bit.ly/scnfforestplanhome>. Our intention was to hold workshops in local communities to explain the review and invite public feedback. Because of the State of Idaho's shelter-in-place policies, these April workshops were cancelled.

The USDA Forest Service continues to not hold events that could attract large crowds and cannot meet social distancing guidelines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. In light of continuing pandemic concerns, the Forest has adapted our public engagement strategy. The Forest has issued a short document that summarizes the extensive review of the existing forest plans. The public is invited to provide feedback on the existing plan review until Oct. 4, 2020.

Forest Plan Revision team leader Josh Milligan will also host a virtual meeting and conference call for those who wish to join on Tuesday, September 1 from 11 am – 12:30 pm. The web address to join is <http://bit.ly/SCNFwebinar> and conference call line is 1-888-844-9904, access code 2595688#.

"Since the Salmon-Challis National Forest started revising our forest plans in 2017, we have been in continual communication with local citizens, elected officials, state agencies, tribes and many other interested parties," said Salmon-Challis Forest Supervisor Chuck Mark. "Public engagement has been robust and passionate and I sincerely appreciate the interest, time, and effort. We have completed this thorough evaluation of the existing Challis and Salmon Forest Plans at the request of our stakeholders and I'm looking forward to getting feedback on these initial findings."

After hearing from stakeholders, Mark expects to use the findings from the review and public input and determine whether each plan should be revised, amended, or left unchanged.

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