

November 14, 2010

To: Chuck Mark, Forest Supervisor, Salmon Challis National Forest

From: Dolores Ivie, Coordinator LCGA

RE: Bayhorse, Salmon-Challis Fuels Reduction & Restoration, North Zone Vegetation Improvement, and Stormy Projects

Dear Supervisor Mark:

This letter serves as our formal comments relative to the scoping on the above mentioned projects. All the proposed projects have needed to happen for some time but find the information supplied with this scoping to be quite vague and leave the public basically in the dark when you consider the amount of acres involved. Smaller land mass areas within the zones would be more conducive to specific comments. You cannot do an analysis of effects on such large areas with a CE and have the public understand or even know what impacts may be specific to where they live.

Additional points on all the projects for consideration in this scoping process are as follows.

1. Above all, prescribed fire is not the answer to all things. Example: timber in a grazing allotment should not be burned. Mark the timber for disposal and allow the rancher to clear that timber himself and sell it or put it to whatever use he sees fit. Make it beneficial to both the rancher and the Forest Service and not wasted material. There is no benefit for anyone when timber is destroyed by fire. A process which also leaves the allotment useless for 1 to 2 years.
2. Timber management areas in the current Forest Plans should be eliminated from any consideration in these proposals.
3. Criteria for fire application need to be disclosed.
4. Road construction may be necessary for forest restoration or product removal. Current roads should not be decommissioned. ALL roads provide access for fire, safety, recreation, search and rescue and should be kept intact for these reasons and the fact the Forest Service no longer builds roads. A CE should not be used to quietly accomplish road removal such as was found in the Williams Creek Farm Bill project scoping and subsequently removed as part of that project.
5. Timber sales of all sizes can be found in all of the areas covered by these projects and should be the first priority. Be it 10 acres for posts and poles, 20 acres for logs to build a guest cabin on someone's property or 1000 acres of mixed product. USE it before you burn it.

In addition to these comments, the following set of 4 comments by Lynn and Evalyn Bennett are incorporated in and made a part of this LCGA comment document by reference.

1. Prescribed Fire and Other Recommendations for SCNF "Four-Batch" Project Scoping dated November 10, 2020

2. Salmon-Challis Fuels Reduction and Restoration Scoping dated November 10, 2020
3. Stormy Project Public Scoping Comments dated November 10, 2020
4. North Zones Vegetation Improvement Project Scoping dated November 10, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We reserve the right for further comment as these projects progress.

Respectfully,

Dolores Ivie, Coordinator
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