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File Code: 1920

Ravalli County Commissioners

Date: December 20, 2019

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Dear Planning Participant

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests has been working on updating our future forest management direction. We are pleased to announce the release of the draft revised forest plan and draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The draft Forest Plan includes direction and options for managing the Forest for the next several decades. Forest Plan Revision began under the 2012 planning rule in the Spring of 2012. Since then, we have spoken to thousands of you and met with hundreds of individuals and organizations to collaboratively develop a draft revised forest plan. Meetings held across Northern Idaho and into Western Montana were instrumental in developing the content presented in these documents.

We developed four action alternatives, and the no action alternative, for future management. The DEIS includes the predicted impacts of those alternative management schemes on social, economic and environmental resources. We developed the alternatives based on input from the public. Your comments over the years shaped what you see here. We are now at another critical step in the planning process and we need your input again to help us understand what we got right, what we still need to work on and most importantly, why. We need to hear from you on our proposed future management options and how they would affect you.

I do not have a preferred alternative at this time. Forest leadership, in conjunction with the Forest Plan Revision team, will be developing the preferred alternative based on your comments. Each alternative was developed to be a set of building blocks—any of these blocks within the range of alternatives analyzed in the DEIS could be recombined to form the preferred alternative.

The draft revised forest plan, DEIS, larger maps and other documentation are available on our website: <http://bit.ly/NezClearFPR>.

I encourage you to review our draft plan and the analysis. A public comment period is open for 90-days from the date of the notice of availability in the Federal Register. This 90-day comment period on the DEIS is the last formal comment period on the Forest Plan Revision. Commenting during a formal comment period gives you standing to participate in subsequent administrative and judicial reviews. To obtain standing, one must provide substantive written comments with your name and contact information in a formal comment period.

Comments may be submitted at: <http://bit.ly/NezClearFPRComments>. Online commenting is preferred given the anticipated number of comments.



Comments may also be submitted by mail to:

Nez Perce Clearwater National Forests  
Attn: Zach Peterson, Forest Planner  
903 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Kamiah, ID 83536

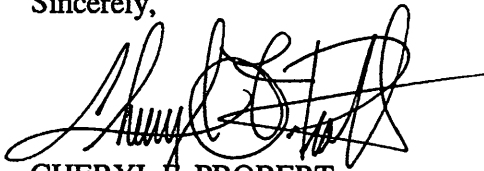
Information received is part of the public record including names and contact information.

I also encourage you to join us at an open house event on the Forest Plan Revision where we will be providing information on our process and the documents which should help you with your review. Events have been planned throughout Northern Idaho and into Western Montana. Additional details, locations and dates are available on our [website](#).

Please contact Forest Planner, Zach Peterson at [sm.fs.fpr\\_npclw@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.fpr_npclw@usda.gov) or at 208-935-4239 with any questions you may have.

Forest Planning is an opportunity to affect management of our public lands for decades to come. We appreciate all the time and dedication of those of you who have been engaged. Thank you for your continued participation in the process.

Sincerely,



CHERYL F. PROBERT  
Forest Supervisor