



STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1118 F Street • Lewiston, Idaho 83501 • (208) 799-4370  
www.deq.idaho.gov

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor  
Curt Fransen, Director

October 23, 2014

Joyce Thompson  
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests  
Forest Planning & Public Affairs Officer  
903 3rd Street  
Kamiah, ID 83536

Subject: Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Plan Revision

Dear Ms. Thompson:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) supports the proposed action for the Forest Plan Revision on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest and offers the following comments.

- a) Chapter 2, page 33, add: *FW-STD-Fire-03 For smoke management and air quality protection during implementation of prescribed burns, follow the Montana / Idaho Airshed Group Operating Guide.*  
Please see June 2014 Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Forest Plan Assessment, Section 2.0 Air, Soil, and Water Resources and Quality, Page 2-1, Subsection 2.1.2.1 that identifies the relevant need to establish Operating Guide procedures as a standard regarding coordinated smoke management for protection of air quality during implementation of prescribed burning.
- b) Chapter 2, page 56, add to FW-GDL-TBR-07 Water Quality: a) *Sediment loads should be limited to available TMDL load allocations if applicable.*  
Please see June 2014 Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Forest Plan Assessment, Section 2.0 Air, Soil, and Water Resources and Quality, Page 2-27 Subsection 2.3.1 that identifies the relevant need to manage sediment loads in accordance with established TMDL load allocations where applicable and available.
- c) Chapter 2, page 61, add to FW-GDL-EM-10 Water Quality: c) *will initiate federal consultation for NPDES Recreational Suction Dredge Mining Permit, if applicable, upon submission of an approvable mining plan of operations.*  
Please see June 2014 Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Forest Plan Assessment, Section 10.0 Renewable and Nonrenewable Energy and Mineral Resources, Page 10-2 Subsection 10.2.1.1 that identifies the relevant need to minimize adverse environmental impacts and ensure environmental standards are met during the review of mining plans of operation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact us with any questions or clarifications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Cardwell".

John Cardwell  
Regional Administrator

ec: Kari Kostka, DEQ  
John Biar, ISDA