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SKIP BRANDT, FIRST DISTRICT
KOOSKIA, IDAHO

MARK FREI, SECOND DISTRICT
GRANGEVILLE, IDAHO

DENIS DUMAN, THIRD DISTRICT
COTTONWOOD, IDAHO



Phone (208)983-2751 FAX (208)983-1428

320 West Main Street, Grangeville, ID 83530

BOARD OF IDAHO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 25, 2017

Cheryl Probert
USFS Forest Supervisor
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest
903 3rd Street
Kamiah, ID 83536

RE: Forest Plan Revision-Wild and Scenic River Suitability Evaluation Process

Dear Cheryl;

We have concerns with the number of river segments (approximately 100) currently being proposed as eligible under the Wild and Scenic River Eligibility evaluation process. This is a significant increase over previous Eligible River evaluations.

Wild and Scenic River designations can and have unexpected and significant impact on Idaho County. Just in the recent years, we have experienced some of those impacts. The transportation on Highway 12, the ability and efficiency of salvaging timber from wildfires, livestock grazing, and restrictions on outfitters and guides have all had negative impacts documented recently in Idaho County.

We are concerned that the protection of these eligible river segments may be more restrictive than rivers actually designated as Wild and Scenic. When the adjacency provision of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is applied, these approximately 100 river segments could adversely affect the majority of the National Forest Land in Idaho County.

For these reasons, we believe that it is important that the Forest completes the Suitability Evaluation during the current Forest Planning process. We believe the Suitability process would eliminate most of these rivers, thus eliminating unnecessary and burdensome regulations on the land.

We look forward to working with you and your team in making river recommendations from which you will make the Suitable determination under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and in accordance with FSH 1909.12.

Sincerely,

R. Skipper Brandt, Chairman

Mark Frei

Denis Duman