



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

10095 West Emerald Street
Boise, Idaho 83704

July 28, 2005

Mr. Mark J. Madrid
Payette National Forest
P.O. Box 1026
800 West Lakeside Avenue
McCall, Idaho 83638

Mr. Richard A. Smith
Boise National Forest
1249 South Vinnell Way
Boise, Idaho 83709

RE: Payette National Forest and Boise National Forest Revision of Sediment-Related Watershed Condition Indicators for the South Fork Salmon River Basin.

Dear Mr. Madrid and Mr. Smith:

As part of the Southwest Idaho Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) revision effort, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) biological opinion Term and Condition 3.B.1. required the Payette National Forest (PNF) and Boise National Forest (BNF) revise the default sediment watershed condition indicator (WCI) values to something more appropriate for the South Fork Salmon River (SFSR).

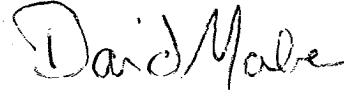
In February 2005, NMFS reviewed and commented on the first draft of the sediment WCI revision paper. A second draft document was received for comment in June 2005. On July 7, 2005, Bill Lind and Debbie Artimez of NMFS, Michael Kellett of the BNF, and Allyson Turner of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) met with Dave Burns and Rodger Nelson of the PNF and reached agreement regarding adoption of the 2nd draft of the revised sediment WCI, which is entitled *Developing Appropriate Sediment-Related Watershed Condition Indicators for National Environmental Policy Act Analyses and Biological Assessments in the South Fork Salmon River Basin*. A July 13, 2005, letter from the Forest Supervisors transmitted the final version of this white paper to NMFS and documented interagency agreement on the white paper and use of its revised values for analysis of effects for future projects within the SFSR basin.

NMFS understands that the PNF and BNF will now proceed with the use of the revised sediment WCI values for analysis in future biological assessments. NMFS will continue to work with the Forests and FWS during Level One meetings to evaluate the success of this new WCI and make adjustments, if necessary.



NMFS would like to compliment the PNF for taking the lead on this effort, but would also like to take this opportunity to compliment both Forests on their accomplishment of biological opinion Term and Condition 3.B.1. The revision of the sediment WCI was accomplished within two years of the signing of the LRMP Record of Decision, as required by the term and condition. NMFS looks forward to the opportunity to continue to work with both Forests to continue to make the concepts envisioned in the Forest Plan Revision a success.

Sincerely,



David Mabe
Idaho State Director

cc: S. Rainville – BNF
M. Kellet - BNF
D. Burns – PNF
R. Nelson - PNF
J. Foss - USFWS
A. Beck Haas - USFWS
A. Turner – USFWS
J. Roy - USFWS