



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

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REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR'S
DIVISION

September 13, 2023

Cheryl Probert, Forest Supervisor
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest
1008 Highway 64
Kamiah, Idaho 83536

Dear Cheryl Probert:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the U.S. Forest Service's August 2023 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Clearwater National Forest Travel Planning (CEQ Number 20230102, EPA Project Number 07-022-AFS). EPA has conducted its review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and our review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The CAA Section 309 role is unique to EPA and requires EPA to review and comment publicly on any proposed federal action subject to NEPA's environmental impact statement requirement.

The SEIS analyzes supplemental information required by court orders related to elk habitat effectiveness (EHE) standards from the 1987 Clearwater National Forest Plan. The SEIS also documents requirements of the Travel Management Rule and its impacts of travel planning. The project area includes the Clearwater National Forest in Clearwater and Shoshone Counties, Idaho. The SEIS identifies and evaluates a No Action Alternative (Alternative A) and four action alternatives including the preferred alternative (Alternative C Modified), which would amend the 1987 Forest Plan to require that specified management areas maintain an EHE level of at least 90 percent and designate Fish Lake Trail for seasonal motorized use.

EPA did not identify significant public health, welfare, or environmental quality concerns to be addressed in the Final SEIS and recommends the Final SEIS and Record of Decision continue to include all best available and relevant information.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the SEIS for this project. If you have questions about this review, please contact Emily Bitalac of my staff at (206) 553-2581 and bitalac.emily@epa.gov, or me, at (206) 553-1774 or at chu.rebecca@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Chu, Chief
Policy and Environmental Review Branch