

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/7/2020 11:00:00 AM

First name: Lauren

Last name: McCain

Organization: Defenders Of Wildlife

Title: Senior Federal Lands Policy Analyst

Comments: Dear Mr. Mark:

We are writing in response to the Salmon-Challis National Forest (SCNF) September 22, 2020 plan revision update in which the Forest Service requested feedback on whether to revise, amend, or not change the Salmon and Challis plans. Thank you for providing an opportunity to weigh in on management planning at this crucial moment in the process.

Defenders recommends the SCNF revise the 30+ year old Salmon and Challis forest management plans as one consolidated plan. Forest conditions have changed, and new science should be reflected in plan components, suitability determinations, and designated area considerations. Consolidating the plans will result in management efficiencies and enable the Forest Service to adopt management prescriptions that account for the broader landscape, which is a requirement in the 2012 Planning Rule. The attached documents help demonstrate a plan revision is warranted. One provides new information about grizzly bear dispersal, and the other reports the results of a spatial analysis that examines at-risk species habitat resilience, connectivity, and conservation across SCNF and the surrounding ecoregions.

Sincerely,

Lauren McCain

Senior Federal Lands Policy Analyst

Erin Edge

Senior Representative, Rockies and Plains Program

Peter Nelson

Director, Federal Lands