



United States Department of Agriculture

MAR 15 2016

Keith Lannom, Forest Supervisor
Payette National Forest
500 North Mission Street, Building 2
McCall, ID 83638

Dear Mr. Lannom,

NRCS has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Middle Fork Weiser River Landscape Restoration Project to evaluate potential effects on the issues listed below.

- (i) Soil suitability and limitations
- (ii) Provisions for erosion, sediment, and dust control
- (iii) Considerations for soil and water conservation management systems
- (iv) Water discharges
- (v) Effects of disruption to the natural drainage patterns and severance of private land units
- (vi) Impact on previously installed soil and water conservation management systems
- (vii) Impacts on prime and unique farmland
- (viii) Impacts on ecosystems
- (ix) Impact on other NRCS-related projects

The project area falls within the unmapped soil survey area ID700, South Idaho Forests. Therefore, soil suitability and limitation and impacts on prime and unique farmland were not analyzed. There were no previously installed soil and water conservation management systems or NRCS related projects identified in the project area. The Forest Service will address all NRCS concerns related to all other issues identified above by implementing the 69 design features identified in the DEIS.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Middle Fork Weiser River Landscape Restoration Project. If you have any questions on these comments, please contact Trisha Cracroft, State Biologist at 208-378-5725.

Sincerely,

Curtis F. Elke
State Conservationist

Cc: James Eller, State Resource Conservationist, Boise, ID
Tony Sunseri, ASTC, Field Operations West, Moscow, ID
Mike Raymond, District Conservationist, Weiser, ID
Andree DuVarney, National Environmental Coordinator, Washington, DC

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