



CITY OF BONNERS FERRY

7232 Main Street
P.O. Box 149
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805
Phone: 208-267-3105 Fax: 208-267-4375

January 27, 2020

Kevin Knauth
US. Forest Service
Bonners Ferry District

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

RE: Westside Restoration Project- Bonners Ferry District

To Whom It May Concern:

The City wishes to submit the following comments regarding the Westside Restoration Project as outlined in the December 20, 2019, scoping document and as learned at the several workshops on this project. Our comments are directed solely at the Myrtle Creek Drainage where the City primary water source originates.

It is our understanding the scope includes the following prescriptions in the Myrtle Creek drainage area:

- **Natural Burns along the ridge of Burton Peak:**

The area prescribed this treatment is located just north of the Myrtle Creek drainage. Many of the creeks stemming from this ridge are known contributors of Myrtle Creek. Prescribed or natural burns in this area could cause soil erosion or other unknown impacts to the creek above the City's water intake valve. We ask that the Forest Service provide the city, in writing, a plan on dealing with erosion and other threats that these fires could cause once the project is approved and before prescription is planned to occur. We also hope that the Forest Service will make every effort to insure that fire will not impact the creek in negative way. Prior to conducting a burn, the city requests that we be notified in advance of the burns and be kept on immediate information status as the burns are conducted and completed.

- **Pre-commercial Thinning Operations:**

Pre-commercial thinning operations appear to be prescribed on either side of the Myrtle Creek drainage. We ask that the Forest Service provide the city with a plan to protect our intake valve and to insure water quality will not be affected by the thinning operations. We ask that based on this report that we be allowed to provide additional comments once the plan has been prepared and reviewed by the city.

Please understand that our comments simply point to our concern that any impact of the city's main watershed could be detrimental to the city's main water supply. Therefore, while we do not oppose proper management of the lands, we do ask that prior to any action taken that the city be given detailed information and timing so that we are insuring our water drainage is protected from impacts of this project.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Ailport, AICP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa M. Ailport, AICP
City Administrator