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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forest Plans

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest Plan Revision Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Nez Perce County Cattle Producers represent cattlemen and women in four Northern Idaho counties. Many of our members maintain permits in the Nez-Perce Clearwater Forest. Grazing cattle improves wildlife habitat as well as promotes new vegetation growth and decreases potential wildfire fuels. Livestock production is vital to Idaho's economy. Our operations also increase recreation and big game hunting on local forests.

Our annual meeting on March 5 was attended by over 100 cattle producers. Following a discussion lead by an Idaho Cattle Association Past President, our members unanimously voted to support comments submitted by the Idaho Cattle Association and Idaho State Department of Agriculture regarding the DEIS. Many members have expressed concern over the flexibility of the current plan and would like to enable on the ground decisions made at the local level. Members would encourage the ability to increase the number of AUMs based on rangeland production and site specific conditions.

We look forward to working with United States Forest Service in the future. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Nez Perce County Cattle Producers

President - Eric Wittman

Secretary - Sissy Rudolph

Treasurer - Cory Pearce

Board Member, Past President - Buster Rudolph

Board Member, Past President - Ron Van Buren

Board Member - Bubba Braucher

Board Member - Kody Heath

Board Member - Dallas Marshall

Board Member - Shane Presnell

Board Member - Nolan Rudolph

Board Member - Colin Wolff