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Title: President && CEO

Comments: Mr. Peterson:

The Lewis Clark Valley Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of its more than 700 members, respectfully submits the following comments on the DEIS document for the Nez Perce/Clearwater Forest Plan Revision:

"After careful consideration and examination of the DEIS document the Chamber and its business members focused primarily on the "Contribution to Local/Regional Economy" analysis of the Plan. Of the five choices provided, we prefer "Alternative X" which maximizes direct employment contribution, estimates the number of jobs at 6,052, and contributes average annual labor income on the forest at over \$250 million.

While timber resources and forest product manufacturing contribute to the majority of these numbers, we also recognize the contributions the Recreation industry makes to the numbers as well.

Even though the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest is blessed with abundant moisture and incredible soil types, capped with deep layers of rich, volcanic ash that is able to grow timber and other vegetation better than any other Inland forest, the timber ecosystems in the Nez Perce[shy] Clearwater Forest are severely departed from their desired future conditions, primarily due to the loss of western white pine forest types. Increasing the pace and scale of timber harvest and active management will treat more of these acres to help restore these ecosystems faster.

The Chamber does not wish to comment or recommend on Alternative elements, Recommended Wilderness proposed and Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers in this letter, however we will communicate the option to do so with individual members and member companies who may wish to submit comments in a separate letter.

Thank you for your consideration.