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First name: Donovan

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Organization: Heckman Cattle Company

Title:

Comments: Dear Cheryl,

I am writing in regard to the Forest Plan Revision with comments specifically directed to livestock grazing. As the long time permit holder of the Peter Ready, Butte Gospel, and Hanover Mountain grazing allotments, I have four main areas of concern.

* Guideline FW-GLD-ARCSGRZ-01 calls for a six-inch stubble height along the green line of the riparian area at the end of the season. I agree with the importance of keeping the riparian areas healthy and leaving the allotment in good shape at the end of the grazing season; however, I feel a standard of a 4 inch green line stubble height is more realistic and adequate.

* Guideline FW-GLD-ARGR-04 greatly expands the extent of fish redd protection. Riparian areas though out the Nez Perce-Clearwater have been well managed under the standards and guidelines of PACFISH since 1995 and have resulted in improved riparian and fisheries conditions. I strongly discourage introducing any language that protects "all" native fish redds. This would have a significant impact on livestock management on all allotments.

* Vegetation Management - I am in favor of selective timber harvest to maintain forest health and open the forest canopy increasing available grazing acres. As more forage becomes available, livestock will graze the entire area reducing the time spent in sensitive areas.

* Recommended Wilderness - Even though livestock grazing would be authorized to continue within new wilderness areas, allotment management within a wilderness area is much more restrictive and expensive to operate. I am not in favor of any additional wilderness acreage.

The decisions made on this plan will have an impact on livestock grazing for years to come. I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and would be happy to discuss my concerns in greater detail at any time. Thank you for your consideration.