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July 16, 2020

Ronda Bishop
West Zone District Ranger
Payette National Forest
2092 Highway 95
Council, Idaho 8361

RE: Little Weiser Forest Resilience Project

Dear Ranger Bishop:

The Payette Forest Coalition (PFC), currently 26 members strong, is writing in support of the Little Weiser Forest Resilience Project on the Council Ranger District. The project advances many of the goals of the PFC including increasing forest resilience to insects, disease and wildfire, providing economic opportunities to rural communities and improving recreation within the Little Weiser River watershed. We understand the urgent nature of this project to address the current and ongoing Tussock Moth and related bark beetles outbreak within the Payette National Forest and support the use of HFRA Categorical Exclusion authority to provide more immediate action in situations such as this.

The PFC agrees with the broader and more long-term focus on total stand restoration rather than merely salvaging dead and dying timber. We have reviewed the silvicultural prescriptions used on the Little Red Goose Resilience Project and agree that similar prescriptions should also be used on the Little Weiser Project.

We ask that the Payette National Forest keep in mind current market conditions and logging costs and design treatment units to ensure economic viability of all the units within the project.

Please let us know how we can be of further assistance as this project moves forward.

Sincerely,

The Payette Forest Coalition