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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To achieve the purpose in moving toward achieving and maintaining multiple LMP desired conditions, there is a need to improve forest resiliency, reduce wildfire risk to communities and infrastructure, and lower hazardous fuel loads to support safer and more effective wildfire response and access. This would be accomplished by maintaining essential transportation access to sustain the transportation system for public access and forest management; using vegetation and fuels management to improve forest composition, structure, density, and fire resilience; and restoring aquatic, meadow, and grassland environments while supporting recreation access and grazing management.

The Palouse Ranger District proposes a suite of activities to respond to the purpose and need for this project, as directed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater Land Management plan:

- * Relocation of a segment of Forest Service Road (FSR) 377 by decommissioning existing 0.75 miles of FSR 377 and 0.10 mile of FSR 789 along West Fork Potlatch River; 1 mile of new road construction.

- * Restore hydrologic connectivity between the West Fork Potlatch River and meadows adjacent to the river on approximately 46 acres. Restore stream morphology at the intersection of Feather Creek and the West Fork Potlatch River.

- * Construct three new water developments (surface water-fed ponds) water for permitted cattle within the West Fork Potlatch- Moose Creek allotment.

- * Construct 21,000 feet of fence, install two new cattleguards, and maintain existing enclosure fence to exclude grazing of the meadow along West Fork Potlatch River.

- * Silvicultural treatments: 637 acres for regeneration harvest, 52 acres for commercial thinning (intermediate harvest), and 2,208 acres for non-commercial thinning to promote forest resiliency.

- o Approximately 12 miles of system road maintenance would occur according to the road maintenance level on Forest Service Roads 377, 789, 3321, 3330, 3331, and 4700.

- o Approximately 12 miles of temporary road construction is proposed to access harvest units.

- o Up to five acres would be treated with a combination of mastication or hand thinning to remove encroaching conifers from aspen stands.

- * A new access point for parking to improve public safety. Provide trails that provide loop opportunities (ending back at the beginning) for mechanized recreationalists.

- * Construction of 20 miles of trail for non-motorized recreation experience. A 2-mile trail to connect the new trailhead to the existing trail system (Trails 767 and 768). Construct three non-motorized trails totaling up to 15 miles to tie into the existing trails (Trails 767 and 768).

- * Establishment of a day use area with parking for the Feather Creek trail, including installation of an information kiosk, concrete vault toilet, and hitching rails for equestrian users.

- o Would include American Disability Act (ADA) compliant access, picnic tables, fire rings, and a fenced

perimeter.

* Within the wildland urban interface (WUI), mechanical and hand treatments on approximately 800 acres that include mastication, thinning, piling, and pile burning.

* Removal of fuel accumulation of dead and dying trees on up to 420 acres along nine miles of system roads (system roads 377, 377-C, 789, 4700, 3330, 3331).