

6 East Ute Road
Salmon, Idaho

Mr. Charles Mark, Forest Supervisor
Mr. Josh Milligan, Plan Revision Team Lead
Salmon-Challis National Forest
1206 South Challis Street
Salmon, Idaho 834676

May 21, 2018

re: "Summary of Public Feedback on Eligibility Study Process and Inventory of Rivers to be Studied"

Dear Supervisor Mark and Mr. Milligan:

In the process of reviewing the "Final Eligibility Study Process" (June 2017) cited in the Salmon-Challis National Forest (SCNF) "Draft WSR Eligibility Report" (October 2017), I learned there was a "Draft Eligibility Study Process" document (April 2017) and, apparently, a comment period on that document. I am writing with comments on and questions regarding the "Summary of Public Feedback..." (June 2017) prepared by EMPSi after the "Draft Eligibility Study Process" comment period closed on May 31, 2017. I trust that you will receive and act on these comments because the WSR "Public Participation Strategy" (March 2017, p. 3) states that "input is welcome throughout the eligibility study process."

I request your immediate response to my questions, since the information I seek is critical to my review of the Draft WSR Eligibility Report and Final Eligibility Study Process documents.

1. When did the SCNF publish a notice in the two newspapers of record (*Recorder-Herald, Challis Messenger*) to inform the public that the Forest had scheduled public meetings in April 2017 regarding WSR, wilderness and other topics?
2. When did the SCNF publish a notice in the newspapers of record to inform the public that the Forest had posted the "Draft Eligibility Study Process" and "Draft Inventory of Rivers to be Studied" documents on the Forest Plan Revision web site *and was requesting public input on those documents* prior to May 31, 2017?
3. When did the SCNF conduct WSR-related public meetings in Challis, Idaho, during the April 2017 timeframe when WSR meetings were held in Salmon, May, Mackay, and Ketchum, Idaho?
4. Did the SCNF do any non-electronic media outreach to obtain public input on the "Draft Eligibility Process" and "Draft Inventory of Rivers to be Studied" documents, to ensure persons who do not have computer access (to check the plan revision web site and/or receive the April 2017 newsletter) could participate in public meetings and comment on these draft documents? Did you publish any news articles or press releases, or make public service announcements on KSRA radio? Did you mail a notification to Forest license/permit holders and affected private landowners?
5. When did the SCNF post the two draft documents (see #2) on the Plan Revision/WSR web site, and for how long were they made available? (The documents are not currently on the web site.)
6. When did the SCNF seek public input regarding the WSR "Public Participation Strategy" (March 2017)? [Shouldn't you have asked us how we prefer to be contacted, rather than delegating that decision to a contractor?]

7. Who were the 10 persons or organizations who commented on the "Draft Eligibility Study Process" and "Inventory of Rivers to be Studied" (Summary of Public Feedback, p. 3-2)? Where are the 10 comments posted? **I request printed copies of all 10 comments received, no later than May 31, 2018.**
8. Which organization(s) or person(s) identified additional rivers to be studied and provided supporting information regarding outstandingly remarkable values (Summary of Public Feedback, pp. 3-2 to 3-3)? Did the Forest accept all suggested "additional" rivers for inclusion in the final inventory? Was this *enormous* list of rivers "inventoried" by the SCNF (or EMPSi) between June 2017 and October 2017, or did you simply roll the suggested content from the commenter into the Draft WSR Eligibility Report? Did you first consider the cost and time required to expand the eligibility study, considering that the Forest still has not done a suitability study of the rivers already found to be eligible?
9. What was the SCNF's original list of rivers to be studied, prior to the comment period? (The "Draft Inventory of Rivers to be Studied" is not on the web site.)
10. Were any comments received on the draft study process itself? Were any changes made to the April 2017 draft study process document, and if so, what were those changes?
11. Did you specifically request comment regarding changed conditions of currently eligible rivers (based on studies prior to 2017) that would affect their current status as eligible, either adding to *or removing* ORV?
12. Do you believe the 10 comments received during a brief, selectively advertised, comment period are an accurate representation of the public comments that citizens have on the WSR eligibility study? Or, do you need to intensify your outreach to ensure citizens are fully informed and can comment on the Draft WSR Eligibility Report prior to the July 16, 2018 deadline?

I have coordinated the contents of this letter with Robert Johnson of Salmon, Idaho. He has been in contact with the Region 4 Public Affairs office and is prepared to submit Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for each and every question you do not answer.

I look forward to receiving your written response to my questions **no later than May 31, 2018**. Please call me at (208) 756-3974 when the copies of public comments are ready for me to pick up at the Supervisor's Office. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Evalyn Bennett
5bennetts@custertel.net

cc: Robert Johnson; Rep. Dorothy Moon; Lemhi County Commissioners; Lemhi-Custer Grassroots Advisory; Region 4 Supervisor Nora Rasure