

November 13, 2014

Nez Perce Clearwater National Forests Supervisor's Office
Attn: Forest Plan Revision
903 3rd Street
Kamiah ID 83536

Timothy:

Thank you for giving the public a chance to comment on this proposed Forest Plan Revision. We appreciate knowing that our opinions and comments are important to you.

In your passages, you refer to reclaiming abandoned mines, and decommissioning roadways to these sites, at a certain rate for the plan life. "Reclaiming, not only recontours the land, but it includes destroying any man-made structures, or anything "not natural". All that will be left is "sites", no ruins, or artifacts from settlements other than Indian artifacts, which are treasured and sacred.

On Page 46, Table 16 Summer ROS seems a little light on opportunities (maybe less than 28% of the acreage) for those people who enjoy motorized vehicles, (NOT ATV OR UTV) in a less social environment.

We want to see more in-roads within the Nez Perce Forest, instead of decommissioning and obliterating them. These roads are a historical part of the lands, accessing mining and homesteads. It is our wish to leave them open.

On Page 36, FW-OBJ-WTR-07, an "interdisciplinary team of resource specialists" is charged w/assessing roads, trails, etc. and "responsible official" will determine where contribution to degradation to watershed occurs and requires decommissioning 25 miles each yr. decommission roads or trails, 25 miles to unauthorized roads and trails, wipe out the drainage system of 100 miles of NFS and unauthorized roads, trails, etc. each year. Taking the water bars and drainage systems out, is the same as not maintaining roads to degrade to untravelable nothings. That equates to 150 miles of travelways removed from the forest each year. True, there are options listed, but the F.S. has eagerly been decommissioning roads in watersheds, not the alternatives.

LANDS section:

It is obvious that annually acquiring a minimum of 1 ROW to NFS, and every 5-10 years, acquiring 1 inholding, as opportunities arise, is intended to vacate the forest of any occupants, other than visitors. This type of action is causing inholders great concern, relating to the fact that their land is in danger of being taken, and not available to pass on to their next generations.

MA-3 FRONT COUNTRY

Desired conditions:

Include mineral activities within this section, as a use, as there are many active mining claims in the Nez Perce Forest, They don't seem to be addressed.

Appendix D-Pages 115-118 OK until bottom
Table 32 changes format 118 thru 127.

Table 34-Red River Ranger District
Page 123-Trails

212 is listed as a trail. Is this the same as FDR 212 along Buckhorn Creek?

Where is "Lemhi" referring to in this district?

Why are our campgrounds of Castle Creek, Fish Creek, Meadow Creek, South Fork, Blackrby picnic area in Salmon River Ranger District?

Are the boundaries for the districts changing?

The former 1987 Forest Plan contained words like could, may, would, while this revision contains too much verbiage will, shall. It is much less flexible in uses, and there is too much micromanagement

Over the years, people, able, elderly, handicapped, as well as hikers and bikers, have come to their forest to enjoy the recreation experience within its boundaries--camping, fishing, hunting, wood gathering, searching and cutting the "perfect" Christmas tree, and felt welcome to be in "their" forest.

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This proposed environmental excosystem experiment, with eventual zero, human impact, in our forest, appears to envision an attempt to make a National Park out of our National Forest, where a limited number of persons can visit, during a specific time, with no in-roads, nor inholdings of private property. except of select few to administrative "rentals" -government money-makers.

This is not what myself, nor my family members envision for our Nez Perce National Forest. We feel that we can be good stewards of our public land without the strict interference listed in this Forest Revision Plan. We would like to see more open roads, accessing sections of the Forest which can be done, without encroaching on the "wilderness" or "wilderness study areas".

JUST QUITE TAKING MORE AND MORE OF OUR LAND TO LOCK UP AWAY FROM HUMANS AND GIVE TO THE ANIMALS AND NATURE. 9.3 MILLION ACRES IS ENOUGH CLOSED OFF TO WILDERNESS FOR YOUR ECOSYSTEM EXPERIMENTS. WE WANT ACCESS TO OUR FOREST LANDS. TO ENJOY OUR HUNTING, WOOD GATHERING, PERSONAL USE MUSHROOMING, AND NATURE VIEWING, ETC., WITHOUT BEING "HERDED" INTO SMALL SPECIAL USE AREAS WHERE THE IMPACT DAMAGES THE ECOSYSTEM THROUGH HEAVY USE, SO IT HAS TO BE ARTIFICIALLY AND NEEDLESSLY REGULATED.

Always a pleasure to comment on your projects.

Sincerely,



Joe H. Lemire
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