



File Code: 1950

Date: January 13, 2011

Dear Forest User

The Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests will be considering a number of project proposals and conducting environmental analysis in the near future. A separate decision will be made on each individual proposal. Please review the following proposals and submit your comments so they can be included in our analysis. Proposals are included in Part A or Part B (attached) based on their appeal eligibility and comment requirements. A summary of the projects is shown in the following table.

Part	Appeal-able?	Project Title	Forest	District
A	No	Quest Powerline Master Special Use Permit Reissuance	Nez Perce & Clearwater	Moose Creek, Clearwater (Nez Perce) and Lochsa (Clearwater)
A	No	Shearer Airstrip Maintenance	Nez Perce	Moose Creek
A	No	Moose Creek Ranch Trail Bridge Maintenance	Nez Perce	Moose Creek
A	No	Indian Hill Road Maintenance	Nez Perce	Moose Creek
A	No	Fog Mountain Road Maintenance	Nez Perce	Moose Creek
A	No	Seven Devils County Road Chip Seal	Nez Perce	Salmon River
A	No	County Road 221 Slide Repair, Safety Realignment, and Right-of-Way Acquisition	Nez Perce	Clearwater
A	No	Clearwater Forestwide Trail Repair and Maintenance	Clearwater	All
A	No	Triple O Outfitters Special Use Permit Reissuance	Clearwater	Lochsa
A	No	Kooskia Special Use Permit Reissuance	Clearwater	Lochsa
A	No	Wilderness Gateway Loop C Toilet Replacement	Clearwater	Lochsa
A	No	US Hwy 12 MP 87.6 Forest Boundary Dispersed Site Repair and Maintenance	Clearwater	Lochsa
A	No	US Highway 12 MP 95.3 Wild Goose Campground – Beach Access Stair Replacement	Clearwater	Lochsa
A	No	US Hwy 12 MP 99 Pete King River Access Repair	Clearwater	Lochsa
A	No	US Hwy 12 MP 108.5 Knife Edge Campground/River Access – Ramp Stabilization	Clearwater	Lochsa



<b>Part</b>	<b>Appeal-able?</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Forest</b>	<b>District</b>
A	No	US Hwy 12 MP 110.1 Undeveloped River Access Improvement	Clearwater	Lochsa
A	No	Forest Road 462 MP 0.1 Fish Creek Road Dispersed Site/River Access Decommission	Clearwater	Lochsa
A	No	US Hwy 12 MP 122.1 Boulder Flat Access Repair	Clearwater	Lochsa
A	No	US Hwy 12 MP 122.6 Wilderness Gateway Access Repair	Clearwater	Lochsa
A	No	US Hwy 12 MP 127.5 Dead Mule River Access Repair	Clearwater	Lochsa
A	No	Hwy 12 MP 139.6 – Saddle Camp South Dispersed Site Access Improvement	Clearwater	Lochsa
A	No	US Hwy 12 MP 158.5 Whitehouse Campground Access Improvement	Clearwater	Lochsa
A	No	Bungalow Outfitter Special Use Permit Reissuance	Clearwater	North Fork
A	No	Rasmussen Outfitters Special Use Permit Reissuance	Clearwater	North Fork
A	No	Pollock Ridge Trail Maintenance	Clearwater	North Fork
A	No	Pot Mountain Trail Maintenance and Improvements	Clearwater	North Fork
A	No	U.S. Geological Survey Gauging Station Special Use Permit Reissuance	Clearwater	North Fork
A	No	Fish Lake Toilet Replacement	Clearwater	North Fork
A	No	Idaho Whitetail Guides Special Use Permit Reissuance	Clearwater	Palouse
A	No	Shattuck Creek Outfitters Special Use Permit Reissuance	Clearwater	Palouse
A	No	Potlatch Corporation Road Use Permit Issuance	Clearwater	Palouse
A	No	Wildlife Adventures Incorporated Special Use Permit Reissuance	Clearwater	Powell
B	Yes	Castle Creek Work Center Maintenance	Nez Perce	Clearwater
B	Yes	Salmon and Clearwater Ranger Districts' Precommercial Thinning	Nez Perce	Salmon River & Clearwater
B	Yes	South Side Burn	Clearwater	Powell

The Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests have made a preliminary assessment that these proposals fall within categories of actions listed in 36 CFR 220.6 that are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement and that no extraordinary circumstances exist that would preclude use of the categories. Brief project descriptions are included below. If you are interested in submitting a comment on any of these projects, please follow the instructions below.

Thank you for your interest in the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests.

Sincerely,



RICK BRAZELL  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Marty J Gardner, Scott A Russell, Terry Nevius, Joe B Hudson, Thomas D Osen, Craig P Trulock, Doug Gober, Susan Shaw, Ruben Escatell, Tammy Harding, Suzanne Acton

Attachments:

Part A: Non-Appealable Projects

Part B: Appealable Projects

## PART A: NON-APPEALABLE PROJECTS

### Introduction

The Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests will be considering 32 project proposals and conducting environmental analysis in the near future. Please review the following proposals and submit your comments as described below so they can be included in our analysis.

These decisions are not subject to appeal.

### How to Provide Comments

We are interested in your comments about these proposals and invite you to send site-specific written comments to us for the *Quest Powerline Master Special Use Permit Reissuance, Shearer Airstrip Maintenance, Moose Creek Ranch Trail Bridge Maintenance, Indian Hill Road Maintenance, Fog Mountain Road Maintenance, Seven Devils County Road Chip Seal, County Road 221 Slide Repair, Safety Realignment, and Right-of-Way Acquisition, Clearwater Forestwide Trail Repair and Maintenance, Triple O Outfitters Special Use Permit Reissuance, Kooskia Special Use Permit Reissuance, Wilderness Gateway Loop C Toilet Replacement, US Hwy 12 MP 87.6 Forest Boundary Dispersed Site Repair and Maintenance, US Highway 12 MP 95.3 Wild Goose Campground – Beach Access Stair Replacement, US Hwy 12 MP 99 Pete King River Access Repair, US Hwy 12 MP 108.5 Knife Edge Campground/River Access – Ramp Stabilization, US Hwy 12 MP 110.1 Undeveloped River Access Improvement, Forest Road 462 MP 0.1 Fish Creek Road Dispersed Site/River Access Decommission, US Hwy 12 MP 122.1 Boulder Flat Access Repair, US Hwy 12 MP 122.6 Wilderness Gateway Access Repair, US Hwy 12 MP 127.5 Dead Mule River Access Repair, Hwy 12 MP 139.6 – Saddle Camp South Dispersed Site Access Improvement, US Hwy 12 MP 158.5 Whitehouse Campground Access Improvement, Bungalow Outfitter Special Use Permit Reissuance, Rasmussen Outfitters Special Use Permit Reissuance, Pollock Ridge Trail Maintenance, Pot Mountain Trail Maintenance and Improvements, U.S. Geological Survey Gauging Station Special Use Permit Reissuance, Fish Lake Toilet Replacement, Idaho Whitetail Guides Special Use Permit Reissuance, Shattuck Creek Outfitters Special Use Permit Reissuance, Potlatch Corporation Road Use Permit Issuance, and Wildlife Adventures Incorporated Special Use Permit Reissuance* projects by **February 18, 2011**. All submissions made pursuant to this notice may be made available for public inspection at times and places and in a manner convenient to the public business (7 CFR Part 1 Subpart B 1-27(c)).

Written comments should be submitted to Marty Gardner, NEPA Coordinator, Nez Perce Supervisor's Office, 104 Airport Road, Grangeville, Idaho 83530. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm (PST), Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments must be provided during normal business hours via telephone (208) 983-1950 or in person. Electronic comments should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf) or Word (.doc) to [comments-northern-nezperce@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-northern-nezperce@fs.fed.us).

## Project Proposals

### Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests

#### Quest Powerline Master Special Use Permit Reissuance

##### Legal Description:

T30N R3E Section 36;  
T30N R4E Sections 9, 11, 18, 19, and 30;  
T32N R4E Sections 4, 9, and 34;  
T32N R5E Sections 12 and 13;  
T32N R6E Sections 1-7, and 12;  
T32N R7E Sections 5-10, 15, and 22-26;  
T33N R6E Section 32; and  
T33N R7E Section 33.

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(e)(15) Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are not changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.

**Narrative Summary:** The Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests propose to issue Qwest Corporation a Master Special Use Permit to authorize the 6.8 miles (8.2 acres) on the Nez Perce National Forest and 10.2 miles (12.4 acres) on the Clearwater National Forest of communication lines. These lines are currently authorized under separate permits for the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forests. The lines on the Clearwater National Forest (Lochsa Ranger District) run along Highway 12 from Kamiah to Lowell, and the Nez Perce National Forest lines are located along the Selway River (Moose Creek Ranger District) and along the South Fork Clearwater River (Clearwater Ranger District). They intermittently cross National Forest system lands. By combining the two permits, we would decrease the amount of permit administration. This action is only to reissue the permit, and no new ground disturbance would occur.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Zilia Lewis at (208) 935-4255.

### Nez Perce National Forest

#### *Moose Creek Ranger District*

##### Shearer Airstrip Maintenance

**Legal Description:** T31N R13E Section 28

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(d)(3) Repair and maintenance of administrative sites.

**Narrative Summary:** The Moose Creek Ranger District proposes to maintain the Shearer airstrip using hand tools (shovels, pick-mattocks, rock bars, etc.) and a horse (or mule) drawn plow and grader. A culvert would be replaced by digging out the old culvert and installing a new culvert in the same trench. After installation of the new culvert, the trench would be filled and the soil compacted. Ditches would be cleared of debris using a horse-drawn plow and hand tools. Debris removed from the ditch would be loosely distributed on the ground adjacent to the

ditch in as a natural appearing manner as possible. Additionally, the horse-drawn grader would be pulled over the dirt landing surface of the airstrip to redistribute surface dirt to improve its smoothness and uniformity.

The work would occur during the summer months, once the area is accessible by land and air. Fixed wing aircraft landing at Shearer airstrip would be used to transport equipment to the worksite, and horses and mules would travel to the site via the Selway trail from either Race Creek or Paradise trailheads.

The Shearer airstrip would be closed to aviation use for approximately one week or less while the culvert is replaced and grading occurs.

A Minimum Requirements Decision Guide (MRDG) is being completed and an option would be chosen to accomplish the proposed action with the least impact on the physical, biological and social characteristics of wilderness.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Suzanne Cable at (208) 926-8928.

### **Moose Creek Ranch Trail Bridge Maintenance**

**Legal Description:** T33N R13E Section 30 (PB39)

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries.

**Narrative Summary:** The Moose Creek Ranch Suspension Trail Bridge on Trail 421 at Milepost 4 was reconstructed in 1996 with treated materials, and the structure life remaining is 25 years. The Moose Creek Ranger District proposes to repair and maintain the bridge by completing the following actions:

- Replace two lag bolts at the bearing plate (upstream side near Tower #2).
- Tighten bolts and replace loose nails with flathead screws.
- Install a stiffening plate at Tower #1 downstream leg.
- Replace top plates of upstream stiffening truss using treated timber.
- Replace lacing board near Tower #2 upstream and down stream.
- Install cover above center posts on both towers to deflect debris and water.
- Clean the deck.
- Clean around the anchors.
- Remove debris pile at Approach #2.
- Complete a technical bridge inspection.

Hand tools would be used to complete these actions. Equipment would be transported to the worksite by foot or horses and mules.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Molly Puchlerz at (208) 942-0303.

### **Indian Hill Road Maintenance**

**Legal Description:** T31N R9E Sections 11 and 12; and T31N R10E Sections 7, 17, 18, 19, 29, 30, and 32

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries.

**Narrative Summary:** The Moose Creek Ranger District proposes to improve drainage and stabilize the Indian Hill Road (Forest Road 290). Brushing and drainage improvements, such as cross drains and replacement of dry ditch relief culverts, may occur along the entire 12 mile length. Slope and road stabilization activities such as the installation of gabions and removal of slumps in the cut slopes may occur between Mileposts 0.5 and 4. All work would remain within the existing disturbed road prism.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Joe Bonn at (208) 983-1950.

### **Fog Mountain Road Maintenance**

**Legal Description:** T31N R9E Sections 2 and 3; T32N R9E Sections 25, and 34-36; and T32N R10E Sections 15, 16, 20, 21, 29, and 30

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries.

**Narrative Summary:** The Moose Creek Ranger District proposes to improve drainage and stabilize the Fog Mountain Road (Forest Road 319). Brushing and drainage improvements, such as cross drains and replacement of dry ditch and cutslope weep culverts, may occur on the entire 12 mile length. Slope and road stabilization, such as installation of gabions and removal of slumps in the cut slopes, may occur between Mileposts 4 and 8. All work would occur within the existing disturbed road prism.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Joe Bonn at (208) 983-1950.

## ***Salmon River Ranger District***

### **Seven Devils County Road Chip Seal**

**Legal Description:** T24N R1E Sections 16-19, 21, and 22.

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries.

**Narrative Summary:** Idaho County proposes to provide chip seal surface treatment to 4.8 miles of the established roadway of County Road 517 from the junction with Highway 95 just north of Riggins to the external Forest boundary at Milepost 4.8. This road is currently a bituminous surface treatment (BST) surfaced road, and is a single lane to a lane-and-a-half roadway under Idaho County jurisdiction.

Funding for the project is being requested through the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) and environmental analysis is required pursuant to Section 204(a) of Public Law 110-343.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Joe Bonn at (208) 983-1950.

## ***Clearwater Ranger District***

### **County Road 221 Slide Repair, Safety Realignment, and Right-of-Way Acquisition**

**Legal Description:** T29N R3E Section 4.

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline

boundaries, and 36 CFR 220.6(d)(6) Acquisition of land or interest in land.

**Narrative Summary:** Idaho County proposes to correct the chronically failing roadway segment on the Grangeville-Salmon Road (County Road 221) at approximately Milepost 4 by stabilizing the problematic fill shoulder, improving the alignment, and purchasing additional right-of-way. The proposal would include earthwork excavation, right-of-way acquisition, limited clearing, and replacement surfacing (BST- Bituminous Surface Treatment). All work is expected to occur within approximately 500 lineal feet of the roadway. Work is proposed to be performed under Idaho County contract.

Funding for the project is being requested through the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) and environmental analysis is required pursuant to Section 204(a) of Public Law 110-343.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Joe Bonn at (208) 983-1950.

## **Clearwater National Forest**

### *Forestwide*

#### **Forestwide Trail Repair and Maintenance**

**Legal Description:** Forestwide

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails and landline boundaries.

**Narrative Summary:** The Clearwater National Forest proposes to complete annual maintenance and repair on approximately 2,275 miles of trail, and brush approximately 160 miles of roads and trails to facilitate snow groomer access across the Clearwater National Forest. Trail maintenance and repair work would consist of removal of downed trees and loose rocks, cleaning and repair of drainage and drainage structures, repair of failed drainage including upsizing trail culverts and stabilizing crossings with geo-block material (specifically Clarke Mountain Trail at Hook Creek Crossing), removal of encroaching brush, repair and stabilization of damaged trail tread, and maintenance and repair of trail puncheon and bridge structures. All work would be completed within the existing trail prism. Proposed activities would be completed within the Wild and Scenic River Corridor, Selway Bitterroot Wilderness, National Historic Trail corridor, various roadless areas across the Forest, and Research Natural Areas. All maintenance activities are consistent with Clearwater Forest Plan management direction for these areas as trail maintenance activities support established use on existing trails.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Carol Hennessey at (208) 935-4270.

### *Lochsa Ranger District*

#### **Triple O Outfitters Special Use Permit Reissuance**

**Legal Description:** T37N R10E Section 24 (Gravey Creek Base Camp location) (North Fork Clearwater, Lochsa River, Kelly Creek, Eldorado Creek, and Gravey Creek)

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(15) Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are not changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or

intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.

**Narrative Summary:** The Lochsa Ranger District proposes to renew a two-year special use permit issued to Triple O Outfitters. The permit would be renewed for an eight year period in accordance with national policy direction on Outfitter permits. This outfitting and guiding business has five assigned campsites on the Clearwater National Forest and primarily operates from a base camp near Gravey Creek on Forest Road 587. They have four separate permit areas, some located off of Federal lands on private or state ground. Permitted activities include bobcat, deer, elk, goat, moose, sheep, bear, cougar, predator, and forest grouse hunting experiences, fishing, non-motorized trail rides, equestrian rides, backpacking, snowmobiling, van tours, and Level I skiing. The operating areas lie within three roadless areas [Bighorn-Weitas, Hoodoo (Great Burn) and Weir-Post Office Creek]. All permitted activities are consistent with roadless area direction.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Paul Christianson at (208) 926-6408.

### **Kooskia Special Use Permit Reissuance**

**Legal Description:** T32N R4E Section 5

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(15) Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are not changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.

**Narrative Summary:** The Lochsa Ranger District proposes to reissue a 20-year special use permit to the City of Kooskia for a water transmission line on the Kooskia Ranger Station administrative site at Kooskia, Idaho. The existing line is 272 feet in length consisting of pipe varying from ¾” to 3” in diameter. The line and the permit have been in place since the early 1960s. No new ground disturbance is proposed with reissuance of this permit. Proponent has been in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the present special use permit.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Zilia Lewis at (208) 4935-4255.

### **Wilderness Gateway Loop C Toilet Replacement**

**Legal Description:** T7N R9E Section 34

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(5) Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.

**Narrative Summary:** The Lochsa Ranger District proposes to replace the old existing outdated toilet near the end of Wilderness Gateway Campground Loop C with two new single SST toilets that meet safety, sanitation, and accessibility standards. The existing toilet is not accessible, and has a foul odor due to poor design and ventilation. The new toilets would be located between Camp Sites #18 and #20 and across the road from the old toilet site.

No ground disturbance (digging) is proposed during installation of the new toilets. The area would be leveled by filling low areas with rocks and gravel to the desired grade with an excavator or backhoe. The toilet vaults and building would be placed with a large crane. Dump trucks would be used to haul the rocks, gravel, and fill material on site. The toilets would be placed after the use season in late September.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Paul Christianson at (208) 926-6408.

**US Hwy 12 MP 87.6 Forest Boundary Dispersed Site Repair and Maintenance**

**Legal Description:** T33N R6E Section 7

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails and landline boundaries and (d)(5) Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.

**Narrative Summary:** This undeveloped river access and campsite is located just above the Forest Boundary, near the Swan Creek Road #5503 junction, and between US Highway 12 and the Middle Fork Clearwater River. The access road to the site is steep and has limited visibility for safe ingress/egress. The site is annually underwater during high flows, and vehicles have had to be towed to prevent them from floating away in the past. Two small unnamed streams enter the site at opposite ends. The western-most stream flows down the access road. The site is somewhat popular for fishing and as a river access for drift boats, rafts and smaller water craft, and has moderate use as a campsite. Historically, the site has been authorized as a parking area for a private landowner across the river. That residence is no longer habitable and the permit has expired.

The primary management concerns with this site are:

1. Safety of ingress/egress
2. Location within the normal highwater mark
3. Sanitation

**Proposed Action:** The Lochsa Ranger District proposes to remove the access road by filling between the highway and the normal high-water line to create a parking area. The parking area would be hardened with gravel. A trail would be created from this parking area down to the existing access road. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) such as silt fence or straw wattles, seeding and mulching would be implemented. The filled area would be approximately 80'L by 25'W by 6'D.

Prior to fill placement, minor excavation would occur to relocate the unnamed stream within its channel. This could possibly be accomplished by hand. Otherwise, the road would be allowed to grow-in and decommission itself over time.

An existing, hardened turnout and parking area occurs on the east end of the site. An access trail would be created from this turn-out to facilitate access for picnicking and camping. This trail would cross the upper unnamed stream, which would not require any instream work (it's an easy step-over less than 12 inches wide). Work would occur in 2011.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Heather Berg at (208) 926-6404.

**US Highway 12 MP 95.3 Wild Goose Campground – Beach Access Stair Replacement**

**Legal Description:** T33N R7E Section 6

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails and landline boundaries and (5) Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.

**Narrative Summary:** Two concrete stair ways access the beach from Wild Goose Campground. Drainage patterns leading to and around the western stairway make it the preferential pathway for overland flow. Drainage has resulted in gullyng at the bottom of the

stairway and across the beach, which has created safety and erosion issues at the base of the stairs.

The primary management concerns with this site are:

1. Safety of stairway
2. Erosion

**Proposed Action:** The Lochsa Ranger District proposes to remove the existing concrete stairway with an excavator or other mechanical means, and adjust the slope, if necessary with fill and riprap, and then construct a new metal stairway in the same location.

Concurrent with stair replacement, the road grade and slope would be adjusted to direct overland flow over a larger area left and right of the stairway, using one or two loads of gravel. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs), such as silt fence or straw waddles, seeding and mulching, would be implemented. Work would occur in 2011 or 2012 as funds and resources allow.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Heather Berg at (208) 926-6404.

#### **US Hwy 12 MP 99 Pete King River Access Repair**

**Legal Description:** T33N R6E Section 7

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails and landline boundaries and (5) Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.

**Narrative Summary:** This site is a paved turn-out located between the highway and river which can hold several vehicles. A trail from the turn-out to the river provides boater access. In 2003, rock barriers were placed to restrict vehicle access off the turn-out in response to repeated inappropriate use during wet periods which resulted in resource damage (rutting).

This site is desirable as a back-down river access site to facilitate drift-boat access to this section of the river because this is the highest location on the river conducive for drift boat access. Other locations, such as Knife Edge are above Class III rapids.

The primary management concerns with this site are:

1. Providing river access opportunities
2. Resource protection

**Proposed Action:** The Lochsa Ranger District proposes to develop a hardened road access to the river approximately 50'L by 12"W by scraping vegetation and applying a rock surface. Rock barriers may be placed near the river's low-water edge in proximity to a drop off. No slope changes are anticipated.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Heather Berg at (208) 926-6404.

#### **US Hwy 12 MP 108.5 Knife Edge Campground/River Access – Ramp Stabilization**

**Legal Description:** T33N R8E Section 4

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails and landline boundaries and (5) Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.

**Narrative Summary:** The Knife Edge River Access is one of the primary whitewater take-outs for the Lochsa River. Over 2000 outfitted clients and at least as many private parties exit here annually. This river access ramp is primarily native surface with some small mixed rip-rap. Use

patterns, primarily, and to some extent hydrology have resulted in the ramp areas dishing out and encroaching into the parking area. It is estimated that about two feet of the parking area has been lost over the last eight years. Only pedestrian and boat traffic occurs on the ramp. The primary management concern with this site is resource protection

**Proposed Action:** The Lochsa Ranger District proposes to reestablish slope and grade of the river access ramp. Design is ongoing and materials to best accomplish the task have not been determined. Use of native stone rip rap and geotextile grids are being considered. Work would occur in 2011 or 2012.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Heather Berg at (208) 926-6404.

#### **US Hwy 12 MP 110.1 Undeveloped River Access Improvement**

**Legal Description:** T33N R6E Section 3

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails and landline boundaries and (5) Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.

**Narrative Summary:** This site is located just upstream from Bimmerick Creek and consists of a small gravel turn-out and access road to the river. The native surface access road is likely a remnant from highway construction. A few small boulders impede use. This site is used by rafters and kayakers primarily, and is not conducive for drift boat access due to Class III rapids below. It may also be used for angler access. This is not a desirable campsite.

The primary management concern with this site is opportunities for river access

**Proposed Action:** The Lochsa Ranger District proposes to remove boulders, blade and gravel the access road which would be approximately 50' L by 10'W. Work would occur in 2011 or 2012.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Heather Berg at (208) 926-6404.

#### **Forest Road 462 MP 0.1 Fish Creek Road Dispersed Site/River Access Decommission**

**Legal Description:** T35N R9E Section 33

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails and landline boundaries and (5) Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.

**Narrative Summary:** This site is located on the Fish Creek Road #462 between the road and Fish Creek. The site may have been a campsite but is currently used as a river access. The site is very steep with a considerable drop off from the road, and site distance is poor.

The primary management concern with this site is resource protection

**Proposed Action:** The Lochsa Ranger District proposes to decommission access to the site by excavating the transition between the site and Forest Road 462 and installing barrier rock. Work would occur in 2011 or 2012.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Heather Berg at (208) 926-6404.

#### **US Hwy 12 MP 122.1 Boulder Flat Access Repair**

**Legal Description:** T33N R6E Section 26

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails and landline

boundaries and (5) Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.

**Narrative Summary:** Boulder Flat is an undeveloped campsite located between the highway and the Lochsa River. The site is several acres in size and is composed of fill material from highway construction and repair. The site can accommodate five to twelve groups. The site has a paved loop road and no access controls, site identifiers, fire rings or picnic tables. This site is very popular with boaters who camp here (for free) and then travel the short distance to Wilderness Gateway to use the facilities. Sanitation issues are moderate. Off-road travel is the primary concern at this site at this time.

The primary management concerns with this site are:

1. Resource Protection
2. Sanitation

**Proposed Action:** The Lochsa Ranger District proposes to install access controls along the road-way (rocks or other material) where off-road travel has been an issue, define with gravel and access controls parking areas for four to five identified sites, and install educational signs. If funds are available, we would also install a concrete toilet and fire rings. Work would occur in 2011 or 2012.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Heather Berg at (208) 926-6404.

#### **US Hwy 12 MP 122.6 Wilderness Gateway Access Repair**

**Legal Description:** T33N R6E Section 26

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails and landline boundaries and (5) Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.

**Narrative Summary:** Near the entrance to Wilderness Gateway Campground, before the bridge and on the left, is a trail to a rocky beach used for river access, swimming, picnicking, and as a river put-in. The trail is narrow and slopes up on both sides. For pedestrians, the trail is adequate. However, for boaters carrying a raft, several large rocks and overgrown vegetation impede the pathway, and the trail is uncomfortably narrow and uneven.

The primary management concerns with this site are:

1. Safety
2. Resource Protection
3. Boater Access Opportunities

**Proposed Action:** The Lochsa Ranger District proposes to retain the existing boulders at the top of the trail which are providing effective vehicle barriers, shift the trail location to the right about four feet for a distance of about 50 feet nearest the paved road, remove and prune shrubs and remove surface rocks on the right side of the trail using a small excavator. The desired trail width is about 10 feet to accommodate raft carrying. Medium to large boulders may also need to be removed with an excavator. If cultural concerns are presented, this work might be able to be accomplished by hand. Work would occur in 2011 or 2012.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Heather Berg at (208) 926-6404.

#### **US Hwy 12 MP 127.5 Dead Mule River Access Repair**

**Legal Description:** T35N R10E Section 18

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails and landline

boundaries and (5) Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.

**Narrative Summary:** This undeveloped site is unsigned and not identified on maps. It is located between the Highway and the Lochsa River and has a paved loop road and bulletin board. No site identifiers, toilets, fire rings or parking spurs exist. The site has one large and two smaller camping areas. One of these smaller sites is located between the access road and the river and is within the normal high-water mark. Past attempts to restrict access to this site have failed, and it continues to be used.

Dead Mule provides an alternate put-in to near-by Nine Mile River Access. The river access here is entirely undeveloped and off road travel has created minor rutting.

The primary management concerns with this site are:

1. Resource Protection
2. Boater Access Opportunities

**Proposed Action:** The Lochsa Ranger District proposes to decommission the campsite located within the high-water line through placement of large boulders and educational signage. Additionally, we would improve the existing river access with a graveled access, loading and unloading area. This graveled area would begin at the existing paved road in approximately the same location that has been informally developed, and extend about 60 feet long and 20 feet wide. No additional gravel or hardening appears necessary between the access and river. Work would occur in 2011 or 2012.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Heather Berg at (208) 926-6404.

#### **US Hwy 12 MP 139.6 – Saddle Camp South Dispersed Site Access Improvement**

**Legal Description:** T36N R11 E Section 22

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails and landline boundaries and (5) Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.

**Narrative Summary:** This dispersed campsite is located just west of Indian Grave Creek, between the Highway and the Lochsa River. The site receives low use, likely due to the access which is not easily seen and is difficult to navigate. This site has a small pond, and considerable distance between the campsites and the Highway, providing some solitude. The primary concern with this site is the limited visibility and steepness of the access road.

The primary management concern with this site is safety.

**Proposed Action:** The Lochsa Ranger District proposes to work with the Idaho Transportation Department to assure required sight distance can be achieved, which preliminary inspection indicated would be accomplished by minor pruning along the highway. Once sight distance is assured, we would reconstruct the access point to create a favorable grade and turn radius by filling an area approximately 12 feet wide, 50 feet long, and 6 feet deep (at it's deepest and tapered out to 0 feet),. Work would occur in 2011 or 2012.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Heather Berg at (208) 926-6404.

#### **US Hwy 12 MP 158.5 Whitehouse Campground Access Improvement**

**Legal Description:** T37N R13E Section 36

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails and landline

boundaries and (5) Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.

**Narrative Summary:** The Whitehouse Campground includes a day-use picnic and parking area near the entrance, however, easily identified access to the river does not exist. Rafters are known to use one of the campsites (Unit 4) to access the river for whitewater.

The primary management concern with this site is boater access opportunities

**Proposed Action:** The Lochsa Ranger District proposes to construct a river access trail from the parking area to the Lochsa River. This trail would be about 150 feet long. Work would occur in 2011 or 2012.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Heather Berg at (208) 926-6404.

### ***North Fork Ranger District***

#### **Bungalow Outfitter Special Use Permit Reissuance**

**Legal Description:** T39N R7; and T39N R8E (North Fork of the Clearwater, Fourth of July Creek and Weitas Creek)

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(15) Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are not changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.

**Narrative Summary:** The North Fork Ranger District proposes to renew a two year special use permit issued to Bungalow Outfitters. The permit would be renewed for an eight year period in accordance with national policy direction on Outfitter permits. This outfitting and guiding business has six assigned campsites on the Clearwater National Forest and primarily operates from a base camp near Station Creek at the Bungalow intersection on Forest Road 250.

Permitted activities include bear, mountain lion, deer, elk and wolf hunts, and educational trips. The operating area lies within the Pot Mountain Roadless Area. All permitted activities are consistent with roadless area direction.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Kearstin Edwards at (208) 476-8242.

#### **Rasmussen Outfitters Special Use Permit Reissuance**

**Legal Description:** T36N R6E, T36N R7E, T37N R6E, T37N R7E, T38N R6E, and T38N R7E (Lower NF of the Clearwater and Orofino Creek)

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(15) Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are not changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.

**Narrative Summary:** The North Fork Ranger District proposes to renew a two year special use permit issued to Rasmussen Outfitters. The permit would be renewed for an eight year period in accordance with national policy direction on Outfitter permits. The outfitter does not operate camps or overnight facilities on National Forest system lands. The outfitter base of operations is not located on National Forest system lands. Permitted activities include bear, mountain lion,

and wolf hunts.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Kearstin Edwards at (208) 476-8242.

### **Pollock Ridge Trail Maintenance**

**Legal Description:** T39N R11E Sections 2, 3, 4, 10;  
T40N R11E Sections 35, 36; and  
T40N R27W Sections 10, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 31, 32

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4) Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries.

**Narrative Summary:** The Pollock Ridge Trail provides an important backcountry hiking and stock opportunity for users of the North Fork Ranger District and Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. This trail provides hikers, backpackers and stock users the ability to easily get into the high-country of the District and have a true backcountry experience.

The North Fork Ranger District proposes to perform trail maintenance along the entire 13-mile length of the Pollock Ridge Trail #478, from the Moose Creek Trailhead along Forest Road 255 to its junction with the Fish Lake Trail west of Fish Lake, as follows.

- Restore short sections of trail (generally less than 100 linear feet) to Trail Class 2 standards.
- Brush the entire length of the trail.
- Remove a number of rock steps and outcrops.
- Improve drainage along the length of the trail, including armoring dips in the lower portion of the trail and installing culverts, rock retaining walls and backslope ditches in boggy seeps and stream crossings.

Project work would be accomplished primarily using hand tools. Mechanized equipment such as a power wheelbarrow would likely be used to transport native materials such as rocks.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Adam McClory at (208) 875-1734 or Carol Hennessey at (208) 476-4541.

### **Pot Mountain Trail Maintenance and Improvements**

**Legal Description:** *Phase I:* T38N, R8E, Sections 6, 7, 18  
T39N, R8E, Sections 14, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31  
*Phase II:* T39N, R8E, Sections 1, 2, 11, 14  
T40N, R8E, Section 36

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(e)(1) Construction and reconstruction of trails..

**Narrative Summary:** The Pot Mountain Trail is an important single-track motorized opportunity for users of the North Fork Ranger District and Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. This trail provides motorcyclists the ability to easily get into the high-country of the District and have a true backcountry experience. The work identified with this project has been necessary for quite some time and without it taking place, trail conditions would continue to deteriorate, negatively impacting the experiences of the users.

The North Fork Ranger District proposes to perform trail maintenance along the entire 18.5 mile length of the Pot Mountain Trail, essentially restoring 17.2 miles of existing Trail #144 and 1.3 miles of Forest Road 5259. The work for the project would be accomplished in two phases, as follows.

### ***Phase I***

Phase I of the project would likely occur during the 2011 field season. Work would be accomplished with the force account Forest Service trail crew primarily using hand tools. Mechanized equipment such as a power wheelbarrow would likely be used to transport native materials such as rocks.

#### ***Bungalow to Junction of Trail #617, Near Buckingham Lake (approximately eight miles):***

- Restore tread and install water bars beginning at the Pot Mountain Trailhead off of Forest Road 250 and ending at Chateau Rock.
- Realign the trail in spots, which would not exceed 200 linear feet or deviate more than 100 linear feet from the existing trail tread.
- Replace three puncheon bridges with culverts.
- Reopen a 1.4 mile section of old original alignment (significant clearing is required) and replace existing rotting structures, to become a portion of the main Pot Mountain Trail, and take the place of a section of similar length on the west side of Chateau Rock (which would remain in service for non-motorized traffic only).
- Improve a 0.5 mile section of hiker-only-trail to provide hikers access to the base of Chateau Rock, where they can read an interpretive sign about the history of the area and experience 180 degree views of the North Fork of the Clearwater drainage.

#### ***Junction of Trail #617 to Pot Mountain (approximately six miles):***

- Restore tread.
- Install water bars.
- Realign the trail in spots, which would not exceed 200 linear feet or deviate more than 100 linear feet from the existing trail tread.

Tread restoration work for all trail sections in this project (with the exception of the 0.5 mile hiker only trail to the base of Chateau Rock and Forest Road 5259, which would have a designed use of hiker-pedestrian, Trail Class 3) would adhere to the Forest Service Trail Class 3 design parameters for pack and saddle trails.

### ***Phase II***

Phase II of the project would likely occur during the 2011 and 2012 field seasons. The majority of work would be accomplished with the force account Forest Service trail crew primarily using hand tools. Mechanized equipment such as a power wheelbarrow would likely be used to transport native materials such as rocks.

#### ***Pot Mountain to Junction of Forest Road 5259***

- Construct approximately three miles of new trail using a mini-excavator to Forest Service Trail Class 3 design parameters for pack and saddle trails. The new trail would be located on either side of the existing Pot Mountain Trail, which would be rehabilitated. This new trail construction is necessary due to watershed concerns and the steep grade of the old trail, and would provide better recreation opportunities.
- Install waterbars along approximately nine miles of trail from the junction of Trail #617 to the junction of Forest Road 5259.
- Remove and upgrade culverts and stabilize streambanks at Rock Creek ford, likely using an excavator, and restore drainage dip on Forest Road 5259 along approximately 1.3 miles, likely using a Trail Cat.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Adam McClory at (208) 875-1734 or Carol Hennessey at (208) 476-4541.

### **U. S. Geological Survey Special Use Permit Reissuance**

**Legal Description:** T40N R7E Section 6

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(e)(15) Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are not changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.

**Narrative Summary:** The North Fork Ranger Districts proposes to reissue the U. S. Geological Survey a Special Use Permit to authorize a stream gauging station on the North Fork of the Clearwater River used to monitor stream flow from the North Fork of the Clearwater and to collect water discharge data. This use has been permitted since 1966.

The monitoring instruments are housed in a concrete block shelter. A six inch channel iron sloping gauge for reading the stream stage is located at the river bank near the shelter. A suspended cableway for measuring flows is located a few feet from the shelter; with the right bank A-frame on the opposite side of the river. The cableway consists of two 6 by 11 feet steel pipe A-frames mounted on concrete pedestals and 7/8" cable with a clear span of 380 feet.

This action is only to reissue the permit, and no new activities would be authorized.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Zilia Lewis at (208) 935-4255.

### **Fish Lake Toilet Replacement**

**Legal Description:** T40N R27W Sections 11, 12, 13, and 14

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(d)(3) Repair and maintenance of administrative sites.

**Narrative Summary:** The North Fork Ranger Districts proposes to replace two toilet structures, each with a removable waste containment system, allowing for regular disposal of human waste and constant availability of the toilets for public use. Materials would be transported on-site with four-wheelers. Site preparation may be accomplished with a small trail machine to level out a spot for the new toilets. Sub-surface digging would not occur as the new toilet structures would be located at ground level.

The waste from these toilets would be contained in holding tanks which would rest on trailers at each of the two toilet sites. Trailers would then be hooked up to ATVs and the holding tanks transported to the Fish Lake Trailhead parking area and disposed of in a separate vault.

Agreement for volunteer assistance with on-site facility construction has been secured from the Clearwater Road and Trail group, who has assisted with facility and trail maintenance in the Fish Lake area for decades. Additionally, we anticipate gaining the support and volunteer assistance from other local advocacy groups for the construction of these facilities.

The existing toilets would be removed by burning the structures and filling in the pits with on-site material using hand tools or the trail machine.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Adam McClory at (208) 875-1734.

## ***Palouse Ranger District***

### **Idaho Whitetail Guides Special Use Permit Reissuance**

**Legal Description:** T43N R4W (North Fork of the Clearwater River and the St. Maries River)

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(15) Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are not changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.

**Narrative Summary:** The Palouse Ranger District proposes to renew a two-year special use permit issued to Idaho Whitetail Guides. The permit would be renewed for an eight year period in accordance with national policy direction on Outfitter permits. The special use permit authorizes operation on a delineated segment of the Palouse Ranger District on the Clearwater National Forest as well as a portion of the St. Joe Ranger District on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The Palouse Ranger District has the primary responsibility for administering this permit, but works with the St. Joe to ensure operations are coordinated across Forests. The outfitter does not operate camps or overnight facilities, nor is the outfitter base of operations on National Forest system lands. Permitted activities include spring bear hunting, fall elk, deer, bear and cougar hunting, winter cougar hunting, and wolf hunting when seasons are authorized.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Kearstin Edwards at (208) 476-8242.

### **Shattuck Creek Outfitters Special Use Permit Reissuance**

**Legal Description:** T39N Ranges 1, 2, 3, 4, 5E; T40N Ranges 1, 2, 3, 4, 5E; T41N Ranges 1, 2, 3, 4, 5E; T42N Ranges 1, 2, 3, 4, 5E; and T43N Ranges 1, 2, 3, 4, 5E  
North Fork of the Clearwater River and the St. Maries River

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(15) Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are not changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.

**Narrative Summary:** The Palouse Ranger District proposes to renew a two year special use permit issued to Shattuck Creek Outfitters. The permit would be renewed for an eight year period in accordance with national policy direction on Outfitter permits. The special use permit authorizes operation on a delineated segment of the Clearwater National Forest as well as a portion of the St. Joe Ranger District on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The Palouse Ranger District has the primary responsibility for administering this permit, but works with the St. Joe to ensure operations are coordinated across Forests. The outfitter base of operations is not located on National Forest system lands. Permitted activities include deer, moose, bear, cougar, bobcat, wolf (when seasons are offered) and grouse.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Kearstin Edwards at (208) 476-8242.

### **Potlatch Corporation Road Use Permit Issuance**

**Legal Description:** T40N R1E Section 25

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3) Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.

**Narrative Summary:** The North Fork Ranger Districts proposes to issue the Potlatch Corporation a Special Use Permit to authorize use and maintenance of Forest Roads 1447, 4704 and 4704A to haul 1200 MBF of timber from their adjacent property, during the summer and fall of 2011.

Forest Road 1447 is a 0.8 miles, aggregate surfaced, collector class road in maintenance level three, with no access restrictions for motor vehicles.

Forest Road 4704 (0.9 miles) and 4704A (0.7 miles) are native surfaced, local class roads in maintenance level one. They are closed to full size motor vehicles yearlong, and closed to motorcycles and ATV from October 1<sup>st</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup> due to soil and water resource concerns. No restrictions exist for snowmobiles. Road maintenance for these roads would include shaping and grading the roadbed, cleaning ditches and culverts, and cutting roadside vegetation. At the conclusion of use, Forest Roads 4704 and 4704A would be returned to a storage condition by construction of waterbars and seeding the roadbed.

The area of the proposed use has intermingled ownership between National Forest system lands and Potlatch Corporation. Vegetation management has and is occurring on both ownerships with a well developed road system. By using existing Forest Service roads to access small parcels of Potlatch Corporation property, additional road construction performed solely to avoid property lines would be minimized, thereby decreasing resource concerns within the watershed.

Access restrictions for the public would not change, and the gate on Forest Road 4704 would remain closed except during active timber hauling.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Dave Brady at (208) 875-1131.

### ***Powell Ranger District***

#### **Wildlife Adventures Incorporated Special Use Permit Reissuance**

**Legal Description:** T37 R15E, T38N R15E, T34 R16E, and T35N R16E (Upper Lochsa River Drainage)

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(15) Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are not changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.

**Narrative Summary:** The Powell Ranger District proposes to renew a two year special use permit issued to Wildlife Adventures Incorporated. The permit would be renewed for an eight year period in accordance with national policy direction on Outfitter permits. This outfitting and guiding business has fifteen assigned campsites, 235 priority service days, and six head months of grazing use on a delineated segment of the Powell Ranger District on the Clearwater National Forest. The outfitter operates out of the Lochsa Lodge and assigned camps in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness. Permitted activities include summer fishing trips, backpacking activities, cougar, bear and elk hunting.

**Project Information:** If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Molly Young at (208) 942-0303.

## PART B: APPEALABLE PROJECTS

### Introduction

The Nez Perce National Forest will be considering the following project proposals and conducting environmental analysis in the near future: *Castle Creek Work Center Maintenance*, *Salmon and Clearwater Ranger Districts' Precommercial Thinning*, and *South Side Burn* projects. Please review the following proposals and submit your comments as described below so they can be included in our analysis. These decisions are subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215, as clarified in the court order dated October 19, 2005 by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California in Case No. CIV F-03-6386JKS.

### How to Provide Comments

We are interested in your comments about these proposals and invite you to send site-specific written comments to us. For the *Castle Creek Work Center Maintenance*, *Salmon and Clearwater Ranger Districts' Precommercial Thinning*, and *South Side Burn* projects, written, facsimile, hand-delivered and oral comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of a legal notice in the Lewiston Morning Tribune. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. One should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Written comments should be submitted to Marty Gardner, NEPA Coordinator, Nez Perce Supervisor's Office, 104 Airport Road, Grangeville, Idaho 83530. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm (PST), Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments must be provided during normal business hours via telephone (208) 983-1950 or in person. Electronic comments should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf) or Word (.doc) to [comments-northern-nezperce@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-northern-nezperce@fs.fed.us).

If you choose to comment on the proposal, please include the following: (1) your name, address, and (if possible) your telephone number, and organization represented (if any); (2) title of the project on which you are submitting comments; (3) specific facts and related rationale concerning this project that you feel should be considered. For appeal eligibility, each individual must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Additional information regarding how to comment can be found at 36 CFR 215.6.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments may not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality and the available options at that time (see 7 CFR 1.27 for further information).

## Nez Perce National Forest

### Castle Creek Work Center Maintenance

#### Introduction

During December 2010, Avista utility crews felled approximately 50 hazard trees within the Castle Creek Work Center area. The Clearwater Ranger District of the Nez Perce National Forest proposes to remove the existing felled material using ground based equipment skidding, decking and processing within the existing road prism accessing the Castle Creek Work Center facility located on the Clearwater Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest, Idaho County, Idaho at T29N R4E Sections 21 and 28 (Boise Meridian). The project area is located about 10 air miles southeast of Grangeville, Idaho (see attached map).

The proposed category for this project is: 36 CFR 220.6(d)(3) Repair and maintenance of administrative sites or 36 CFR 220.6(e)(13) Salvage of dead and/or dying trees not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than ½ mile of temporary road construction.

#### Purpose and Need

##### *Purpose (Desired Condition)*

The purpose of this project is to remove felled trees to reduce the fuel hazard, address ingress and egress issues, and reduce potential for unauthorized access to the administrative site from public firewood gathering at the Castle Creek Work Center. These actions would maintain the Work Center necessary for the administration of Nez Perce National Forest system lands and remove timber for salvage, public safety, and administrative purposes (USDA Forest Service, p. III-7).

Forest-wide management direction in the Nez Perce National Forest Plan that may apply to this project can be found on pages II-15 to II-25 (USDA Forest Service, 1987). The management area direction for Management Areas (MA) 2, 10, and 16 may also apply to this project. These management areas provide direction to provide and maintain sites for facilities necessary for the administration of Nez Perce National Forest system lands and remove timber for salvage, public safety, and administrative purposes (MA2) (p. III-7), manage timber, grazing, and recreation to give preferential consideration to riparian dependent species on that portion of the management area "suitable" for timber management, grazing, or recreation (MA 10) (pp. III-30 to III-32), and improve the quality of the winter range habitat for deer and elk through timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and other management practices (MA 16) (pp. III-46 to III-47).

##### *Need (Existing Condition)*

During December 2010, Avista utility crews identified and felled approximately 50 hazard trees within the Castle Creek Work Center area that exhibited an imminent probability for failure and likelihood to cross existing utility lines supplying power to Elk City area residents. These felled trees present a potential fuels hazard, ingress and egress concerns, and a potential for unauthorized firewood gathering at the Work Center. Firewood gathering is not authorized at administrative sites.

## **Proposed Action**

The Clearwater Ranger District of the Nez Perce National Forest proposes to remove the existing felled material using ground based equipment skidding, decking, and processing within the existing road prism accessing the Castle Creek Work Center facility. Only materials that are not contributing to the riparian management objectives would be removed. An aquatic resource specialist would identify which trees could be removed. Residual slash would be lopped and scattered. Activities would occur after June 15<sup>th</sup>.

No road improvements would occur. Any ground disturbing skidding activity would be confined within the Avista utility right-of-way corridor and on pre-existing utility equipment maintenance trails. The expected project duration is approximately one week. Restriction of public access to the Work Center facility would be maintained daily through use of an existing gate.

## **Environmental Issues**

Potential issues identified through consultation with Forest Service resource specialists and from issues identified from similar past projects include:

- Effects to soil, watershed, and other forest resources;
- Effects to fish, and potential disruption of fish habitat.

## **Decisions to Be Made**

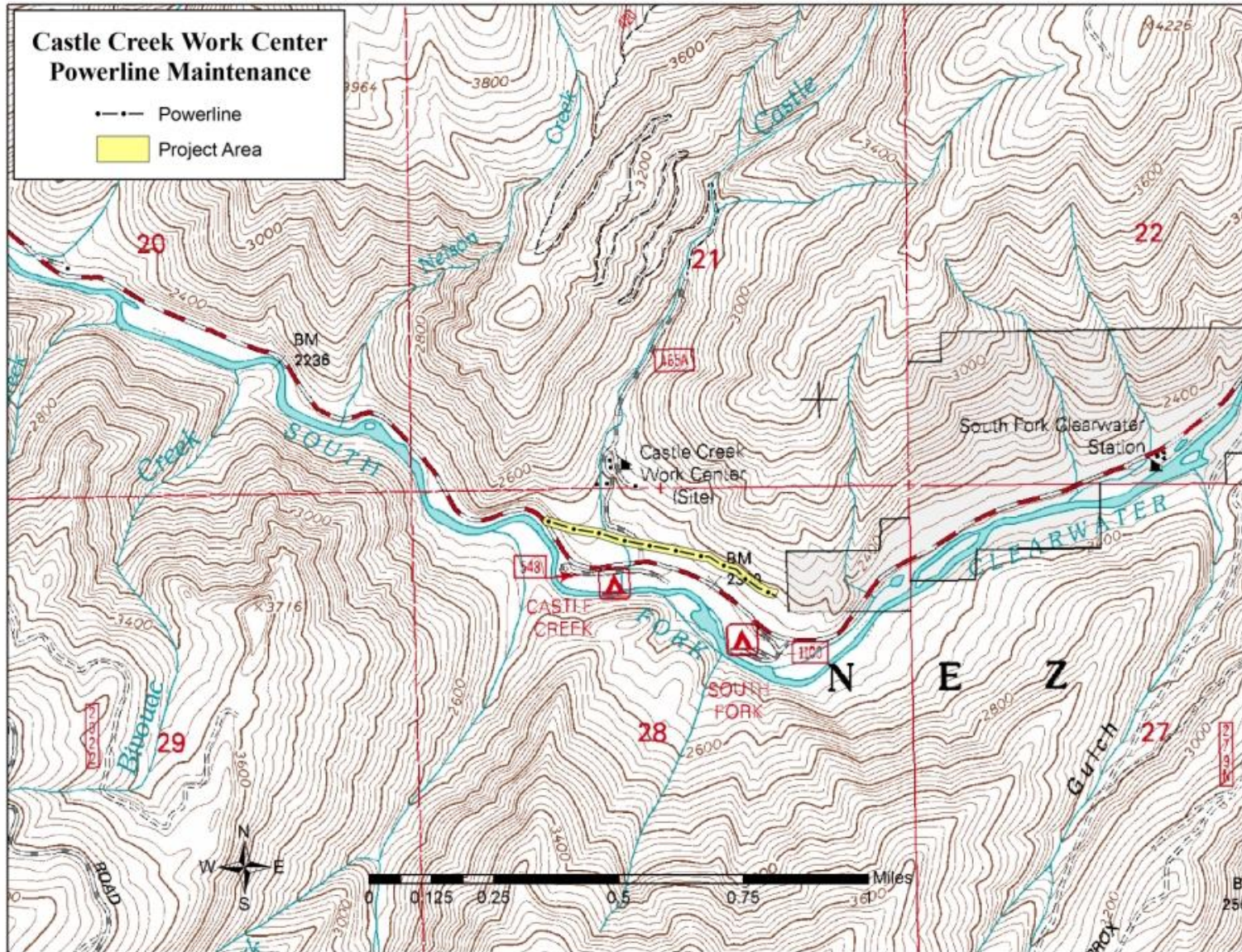
The Clearwater District Ranger is the deciding official for this proposal. The decisions to be made are:

- Whether or not to remove the approximately 50 trees at the Castle Creek Work Center.
- If the removal of the felled trees is approved, what stipulations to implementation would be required?

## **Project Information**

If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Ed Koberstein at (208) 983-1950.

### Castle Creek Work Center Maintenance Project Map



## Nez Perce National Forest

### Salmon and Clearwater Ranger Districts' Precommercial Thinning

#### Introduction

The Salmon River and Clearwater Ranger Districts of the Nez Perce National Forest propose to precommercial thin up to 4,135 acres of over-stocked, mixed conifer species stands located on the Salmon River and Clearwater Ranger Districts, Nez Perce National Forest, Idaho County, Idaho as follows (Boise Meridian):

- T29N R3E Sections 5-9, 16-22, 27-30 and 34
- T29N R6E Sections 7, 18-20,28-32.
- T29N R5E Sections 1,11-14,23-26,35-36
- T30N R4E Sections 1,14-15,21-23,27-28,36.
- T30N R5E Sections 2-3,6-7
- T31N R4E Section 36, and
- T31N R5E Sections 21-24,26,28,32-35

The project area is located south of Grangeville, Idaho, and roughly located within the Wall Creek, High Camp, and Silver Creek areas (see attached maps).

These acres are a subset of acres analyzed in the Forestwide Precommercial Thinning project from the January 23, 2009 scoping notice. The Nez Perce National Forest initiated the Forestwide Precommercial Thinning project in 2009, to precommercially thin about 27,000 acres on National Forest system lands, of which 5,033 acres of precommercial thinning have been previously approved. The current 4,135 acres have been selected for further analysis based on a number of criteria including the stocking level of the stands, and the stands' characteristics which meet logistics for contract viability and administrative access. Of the 4,135 acres, 1,000 acres lie within the Wall Creek municipal watershed and 1,900 acres are adjacent the High Camp communication tower. Additional acres proposed for treatment are within close proximity to private lands in the Lightning Creek Area.

The proposed category for this project is: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(6) Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than one mile of low standard road construction.

#### Purpose and Need

##### *Purpose (Desired Condition)*

The purpose of this project is to:

- ✓ Maintain and promote shade intolerant seral species. The shade intolerant seral species generally tend to be more fire resistant and longer-lived than the shade tolerant species.

- ✓ Increase the amount of sunlight to the ground and sustain the diversity of early seral vegetation species including those browse species important to big game and to also lengthen the time period that this forage would otherwise be available.
- ✓ Reduce the long-term fire hazard conditions in the stands to be treated and adjacent forest by:
  - Maintaining stand health and vigor by reducing stand densities and lower canopy layers that provide a ladder of fuel that allows a surface fire to move upward into the tree crowns, potentially creating a crown fire.
  - Creating a break in the continuity of standing dense ladder fuels across the landscape.
- ✓ Accelerate the diameter and height growth on the remaining selected trees in order to increase future timber yield potential and to accelerate successional development to the larger size classes.
- ✓ Improve the vigor of the remaining trees to make them more resistant to insect and disease attacks and less vulnerable to ice and snow damage and thereby promote long-term forest health and resiliency.
- ✓ Improve and protect the Wall Creek municipal watershed for the Clearwater community.
- ✓ Decrease the plantation densities around the High Camp Communication Tower.
- ✓ Decrease the plantation densities around private lands in the Lightning Creek Area.

Forest-wide management direction in the Nez Perce National Forest Plan related to this project can be found on pages II-16 to II-17, and II-20 to II-22 (USDA Forest Service, 1987). The management area direction for Management Areas (MA) 12 and 16 may also apply to this project. These management areas provide direction to manage for timber production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis, develop equal distribution of age classes to optimize sustained timber production, and manage at levels and intensities consistent with the schedules described in the Forest Plan to provide for other multiple uses and resources (MA 12) (p. III-37), and improve the quality of the winter range habitat for deer and elk through timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and other management practices (MA 16) (p. III-46).

### ***Need (Existing Condition)***

The project would occur in previously harvested units that have regenerated to an overstocked condition. These pre-commercial thinning stands contain tree stocking levels ranging from 300 to over 3500 trees per acre. Because of these stocking levels, these trees are competing for water and nutrients, thus creating stress, decreased vigor, and decreased resistance to insects and disease.

Dense plantations within the Wall Creek municipal watershed, around the High Camp Communication Tower, and in the Lightning Creek Area could present a risk to these areas if wildfire were to occur, by providing a continuous fuel bed and lower canopy layers that provide a ladder of fuel that allows a surface fire to move upward into the tree crowns, potentially creating a crown fire. Thinning these stands would reduce stand densities and lower canopy layers in the long-term. Potential exists to increase the fire risk in the short-term through lop and scatter slash treatment, however, within three years after treatment the risk would be mitigated because of snowpack and needle drop.

## **Proposed Action**

The Salmon River and Clearwater Ranger Districts of the Nez Perce National Forest propose to pre-commercial thin up to 4,135 acres of over-stocked, mixed conifer species stands. These treatments would occur in young forest stands which have resulted from regeneration harvests in the last 15 to 25 years.

- Only trees less than seven inches in diameter would be felled.
- The undesirable sapling-sized trees would be cut, and trees would be retained at variable spacing.
- Cut trees would be felled away from unit boundaries, established trails, fence lines, and roads.
- No thinning would occur within the boundaries of riparian habitat conservation areas (RHCAs).
- All work would be done by hand using chainsaws. No ground disturbing activities are proposed with this project.
- Slash would be treated by lop and scatter.
- No burning would occur in the stands after thinning, nor would any further mechanical slash treatment be done.
- Existing roads would be used to provide access to the sites.
- No snow plowing would occur as the season of operation is July through October.

## **Environmental Issues**

Potential issues identified through consultation with Forest Service resource specialists and from issues identified from similar past projects include:

- Effects to soil, watershed, and other forest resources;
- Effects to wildlife and potential disruption of wildlife habitats.

## **Decisions to Be Made**

The Salmon River and Clearwater District Ranger is the deciding official for this proposal. The decisions to be made are:

- Whether or not to pre-commercial thin 4,135 acres.
- If the area is thinned, what stipulations to implementation would be required?

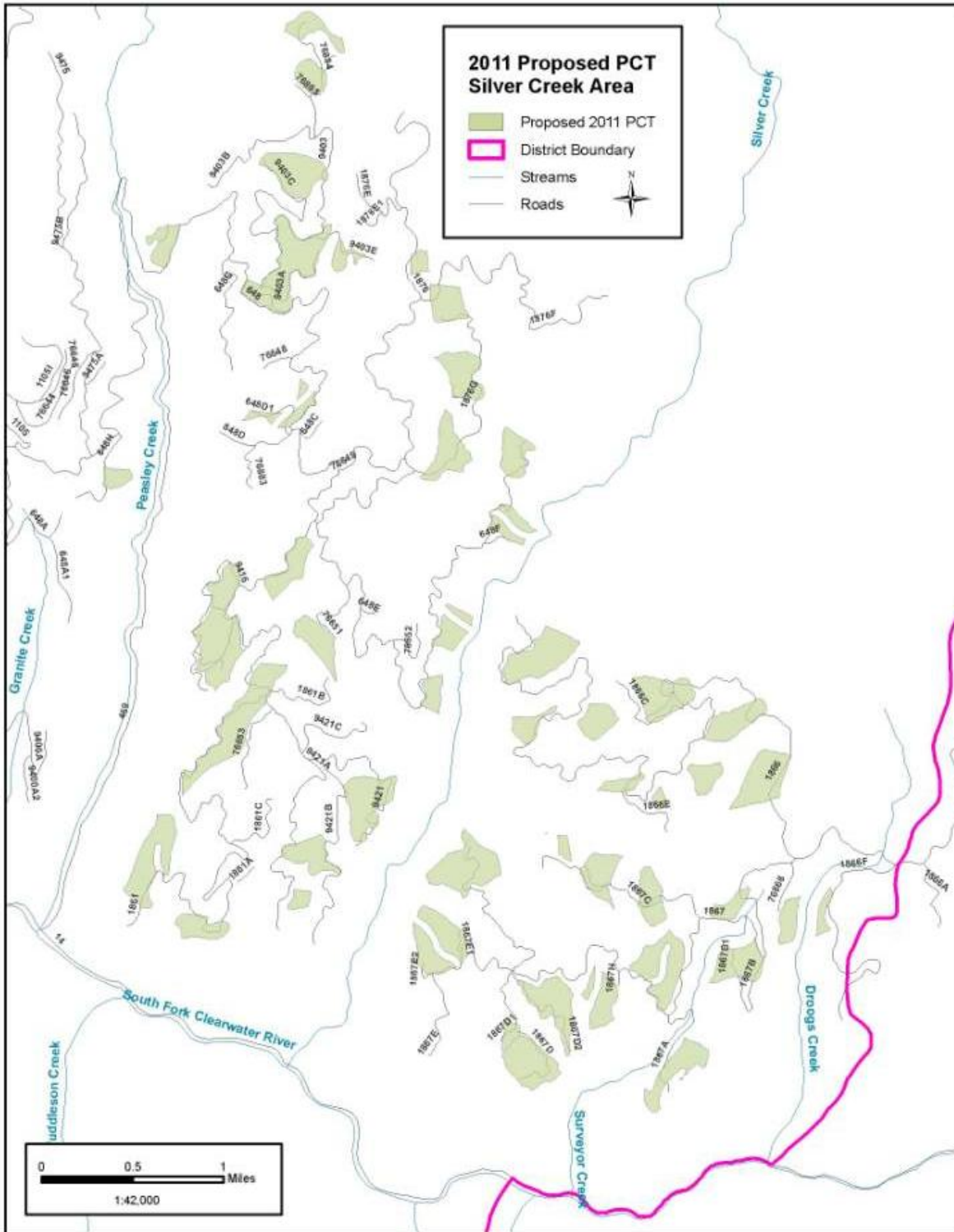
## **Project Information**

If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Sandi Holbrook at (208) 839-2211.





### Salmon and Clearwater Ranger Districts' Precommercial Thinning Project Map 3 (Silver Creek Area)



## Clearwater National Forest

### South Side Burn Project

#### Introduction

The Powell Ranger District of the Clearwater National Forest proposes to apply mixed severity prescribed burning on approximately 7,300 acres on southern and westerly aspects above the Lochsa River. The approximate center of the project is T35N R11E Section 7 near Flytrap Butte.

The proposed category for this project is: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(6) Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than one mile of low standard road construction.

#### Purpose and Need

##### *Purpose (Desired Condition)*

The Southside Burn project objectives are to stimulate forage for big game while retaining hiding and thermal cover. Implementation of the project would also create patches of different aged vegetation in the currently uniform landscape. These objectives would be accomplished through mixed-severity prescribed burns.

Treatments in the area were recommended in the Upper Lochsa Corridor Assessment. Projects that create shrub/early-seral stands that provide wildlife habitat were given a “high” priority. The desired conditions for big game include maintaining species of cultural, commercial and recreational significance.

The project area lies in Management Areas A3, A7, C3, C4 and C8S. Clearwater National Forest Plan direction pertinent to this project can be found on pages III-7, 8, 24-30, 43, 45, 47, 49 and 53 (USDA Forest Service, 1987).

These management areas provide direction to maintain and, where appropriate, improve the winter and summer habitat over time to support increased populations of big-game wildlife species, and to use prescribed fire from planned and unplanned ignitions as needed to achieve Forest Plan direction. The South Side project encompasses most of the “Secretary’s Area” above the Lochsa River. This area was designated in 1963 with objectives to provide for full multiple use management while protecting scenic and recreational values. These objectives were incorporated into the Clearwater National Forest Plan management areas.

##### *Need (Existing Condition)*

The project area has experienced little disturbance from fire since 1934. About 95% of the area burned or reburned in 1910, 1919, 1929 and 1934. The Freezout Fire of 1994 burned about 2,000 acres within the project area. Twenty-three other fires have occurred since 1934, but stayed smaller than 10 acres. Forested stands are relatively uniform across the area and are in the mid-seral stage, with an understory component of mature shrubs. Large diameter ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir occur on exposed lower elevation ridges. Mature shrubs range from two to eight feet high in the shrub habitat types. These decadent shrubs do not provide adequate forage for

big game. The project area currently lacks preferred shrubs and early seral stands identified in the Upper Lochsa Corridor Assessment (USDA Forest Service, 2008).

## **Proposed Action**

The Powell Ranger District of the Clearwater National Forest proposes to apply mixed severity prescribed fire to about twenty percent of the 36,000 acre project area on south and westerly aspects, using aerial ignition. Short term closures to trails both within and outside the project area would occur to provide for public safety. Compliance with procedures outlined in the North Idaho Smoke Management Memorandum of Agreement would result in no long term impacts to air quality. These measures protect air quality and comply with the rules, regulations, and permit procedures of the EPA and the IDEQ. Due to the scale of the project, completion would likely take five to ten years to implement with one to three units accomplished per year depending on seasonal fuels conditions. If approved, the project could be implemented as soon as conditions permit in the summer and or fall of 2011.

The Powell Ranger District does not propose to change the current management of wildfires within the project area. Future wildland fires would be managed for resource benefits. Units may not be treated if wildfires occur within these areas. This project would create or improve big game forage, reduce the encroachment of conifers on shrub and grass species, and reduce the uniformity of the current landscape.

## **Environmental Issues**

Potential issues identified through consultation with Forest Service resource specialists and from issues identified from similar past projects include:

- Effects to soil, watershed, and other forest resources;
- Effects to wildlife and wildlife habitats.

## **Decisions to Be Made**

The Powell District Ranger is the deciding official for this proposal. The decisions to be made are:

- Whether or not to prescribed burn 7,300 acres.
- If the area is prescribed burned, what stipulations to implementation would be required?

## **Project Information**

If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Matt Young at (208) 942-0344.

### South Side Burn Project Map

