

APPENDIX I

CONCERNS FROM PUBLIC SCOPING:

Respondents

Public comments to scoping were received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club et al, and the Hells Canyon Preservation Council.

Comment: Two of the respondents expressed concern that a reasonable range of alternatives be evaluated:

Response: Three alternatives were evaluated in detail, including an alternative to reduce grazing, and one to eliminate grazing entirely. Two other alternatives were considered but not evaluated in detail.

Comment: Three respondents expressed concern for water quality, riparian habitat, and impacts on hydrologic and fisheries resources.

Response: Effects on these resources have been evaluated in detail for the selected alternatives.

Comment: Respondents expressed concern for impacts on soils, native vegetation, Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive species, Management Indicator species and wildlife habitat.

Response: Effects on these resources were considered for the alternatives evaluated in detail.

Comment: Respondents expressed concern for impacts to cultural resources.

Response: The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Nez Perce Tribe were both consulted on this project and expressed no concerns. The State Historic Preservation Office has confirmed there would be no cultural resources impacted by the project.

Comment: Respondents expressed concern for socio-economic impacts and recreation including bird watching and wildlife viewing.

Response: Socio-economic impacts to the ranching community and broader socio-economic condition of the two associated counties were evaluated. Elk, redband and steelhead trout are considered Forest Plan management indicator species tied to forest recreation opportunities. Effects to elk and fisheries resources were evaluated. Effects on sensitive and ESA-listed wildlife species, as well as neotropical migratory birds and their habitats were all evaluated.

Comment: The introduction and spread of non-native invasive plant species were identified as a concern by respondents.

Response: Effects of continued grazing on the introduction and spread of non-native invasive plants were evaluated for each alternative.

Comment: Impacts to native vegetation, including young trees, were identified as a concern by respondents.

Response: Impacts to native vegetation, including young trees, were analyzed.

Comment: One respondent requested that the proposal be analyzed through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Response: An Environmental Analysis is conducted to determine whether there are significant issues identified that cannot be resolved through alternatives developed in detail. At this point in time, the interdisciplinary team has not identified any significant issues that cannot be resolved through one or more of the alternatives developed in detail.

Comment: One respondent requested that cumulative impacts from alternatives be analyzed and disclosed.

Response: Cumulative impacts to affected resources were analyzed for each alternative.

Comment: One respondent noted the need to consult with tribal governments, ensure full opportunity for public participation and evaluate project effects on environmental justice and civil rights.

Response: Two tribal governments were consulted, the public scoping period was extended by one month on request from one respondent, and project effects relative to environmental justice and civil rights have been analyzed and disclosed.

Comment: One respondent requested the project consider how the project might interact with global climate change.

Response: Project interactions with climate change were considered in analysis of the alternatives developed in detail.

Comment: One respondent requested that the project describe the monitoring plan and how it will be used in the adaptive management process.

Response: The monitoring plan and its role in adaptive management have been described for the Proposed Action. The monitoring plan and its role in development of Annual Operating Instructions has been disclosed for both action alternatives.