



Nez Perce National Forest

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions

April – June 2004



United States
Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Grangeville, Idaho

The Healthy Forests Initiative

The President introduced his Healthy Forests Initiative in August 2002 at the height of one of the worst fire seasons the Nation has ever experienced. Tragically, the dangers and losses associated with catastrophic fire extended into 2003. With assistance from Congress and through administrative actions, work began on high priority thinning and restoration projects. In passing the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, Congress has provided the Administration additional tools needed to fully implement the President's Healthy Forests Initiative.

Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003

On November 21, 2003, Congress made a strong bi-partisan commitment to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire to communities and restore our nation's forest and rangelands by passing HR 1904, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. The legislation provides new tools and additional authorities to restore more acres more quickly:

- Strengthens public participation in developing high priority forest health projects;
- Reduces the complexity of environmental analysis;
- Provides a more effective appeals process encouraging early public participation in project planning; and
- Instructs courts being asked to halt projects to balance the short-term effects of implementing the projects against the harm from undue delay and the long-term benefits of a restored forest.

Administrative Improvements At Work

Under President Bush's leadership, the federal land management agencies have implemented several administrative initiatives to help expedite projects including:

Healthy Forest Article Continued on Page 10...

Format Changes

Changes to the Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions are coming. The Washington Office has developed a web-based database to track National Forest Proposed Actions. This new Database is called the Planning, Appeals, and Litigation System (PALS). With the web-based design, the public will be able to access the database and search for projects by name or location. The database is scheduled to be available for the next Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions in July 2004.

Information on the WWW

Nez Perce Forest Information

www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce

FS Northern Region Information

www.fs.fed.us/r1

National USFS Information

www.fs.fed.us

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January – March 2004

Forest-wide Projects

Project/Activity Name	Location ¹	The Date Scoping either Began or is Planned to Begin	Estimated Date of Decision ²	Status of the NEPA Process	Forest Service Contact
**Clearwater-Nez Perce Forest Plan Revision	Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests	Sept 2004		Draft Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS has been released)	www.fs.fed.us/cnpz Maple Kirtland (208) 935-2513
**Supplemental EIS to Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Noxious Weed Treatments, Environmental Impact Statement signed August 1999.	Nez Perce, Bitterroot, Payette, and Salmon-Challis National Forests	November 1, 2003, for supplemental EIS	**September 2004	FEIS completed August 1999, scoping for supplemental EIS	Howard Lyman Nez Perce NF 208-983-1950 Ken Wotring Salmon Challis NF 208-756-7900
**Salmon River Canyon Project	**Salmon River Canyon Nez Perce NF	July 1998	**December 2004	**Reinitiation and Revise the EIS	Ken Stump (208) 983-1950
**Pre-commercial Thinning	Various locations throughout the Forest	March 2004	June 2004	Pre-Scoping	Susan Harries (208) 983-1950
**Cone Collection	Various locations throughout the Forest	March 2004	June 2004	Pre-Scoping	Susan Harries (208) 983-1950

¹ All projects are located in Idaho County of the State of Idaho

² Date the Record of Decision, Decision Notice, or Decision Memo will be signed.

****** This depicts project changes from the January - March 2004 schedule of proposed actions.

Salmon River Ranger District

Project/Activity Name	Location ¹	The Date Scoping either Began or is Planned to Begin	Estimated Date of Decision ²	Status of the NEPA Process	Forest Service Contact
**Clean Slate Ecosystem Mgt Project	T27N, R3E, Sections 2-11, 14-36	January 1997	**May 2004	**Decision was withdrawn on February 5, 2004. A Supplemental EIS is Being Prepared.	Mike McGee (208) 983-1950
	Proposed Action: An ecosystem management project (including timber harvest) that will integrate prescribed fire, aquatic restoration, and terrestrial habitat improvement.				
**Gold Lake Tunnel Stream Restoration	T25N, R3E, Section 12	December, 2002	**May-Jun 2004	Finalizing Decision Memo	Garry Seloske (208) 839-2211
Elkhorn Creek Bridge Replacement	T24N, R3E, Section 21	January, 2002	May 2004	Complete, awaiting final approval on BA(s) from NMFS	Daryl Mullinix (208) 983-1950
French Creek Bridge Replacement	T24N, R3E, Section 13	January, 2002	May 2004	Need decision for final	Daryl Mullinix (208) 983-1950
**Moore/Black Butte Trail V	Portion between Anchor Creek and Moore's Guard Station	March 1999	June 2004	Analysis ongoing	John Fantini (208) 839-2211
Rapid River Trailhead	T23N, R1W, Section 1	October 2003	May 2004	Analysis ongoing	John Fantini (208) 839-2211
**NF Slate Cr. Trails 320, 385, 836 - Reconstruction	T27N, R3E, Sections 2-11, 14-36	January 1997	Oct 2003	**Part of Clean Slate Analysis Supplemental EIS being prepared	John Fantini (208) 839-2211
**Joe Springs – Rock Source	Salmon River Ranger District	March 2003	July 2004	Complete, awaiting decision.	Daryl Mullinix (208) 983-1950
**Timber Harvest Categorical Exclusion	Salmon River Ranger District	April 2004	July 2004	Pre-Scoping	Megan Moynihan (208) 839-2211

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Project/Activity Name	Location¹	The Date Scoping either Began or is Planned to Begin	Estimated Date of Decision²	Status of the NEPA Process	Forest Service Contact
**Timber Harvest CE	Salmon River Ranger District Morrison Ridge	February 2004	June 2004	Preparation of Decision Document	Megan Moynihan (208) 839-2211
**Timber Harvest CE	Salmon River Ranger District	February 2004	June 2004	Preparation of Decision Document	Megan Moynihan (208) 839-2211
**Slate Point Mineral Project 1	Salmon River Ranger District	March 2004	June 2004	Pre-Scoping	Kim Munson (208) 839-2211
Proposed Action: Exploration of Minerals					
**Little Slate Florence Trail	Little Slate Creek Drainage	May 2004	March 2005	Pre-Scoping	John Fantini (208) 839-2211
Proposed Action: Bridge Construction at two locations and trail reconstruction/relocation on the Centennial Trail and the Bungalow-Florence Trail					
**Salmon River Sites Rehabilitation	Salmon River Road	May 2004	March 2005	Pre-Scoping	John Fantini (208) 839-2211
Proposed Action: Rehabilitation of seven developed and dispersed sites along the Salmon River Road					
**Upper Sand Creek Placer	Salmon River Ranger District	March 2004	June 2004	Pre-Scoping	Kim Munson (208) 839-2211
Proposed Action: Exploration of Minerals					
**Windjammer Lode	Salmon River Ranger District	March 2004	June 2004	Pre-Scoping	Kim Munson (208) 839-2211
Proposed Action: Exploration of Minerals					

Clearwater Ranger District

Project/Activity Name	Location ¹	The Date Scoping either Began or is Planned to Begin	Estimated Date of Decision ²	Status of the NEPA Process	Forest Service Contact
Templeton Dredging Project	Approximately ½ mile upstream of John's Creek	Ongoing	Deferred	Pending NPDES permit requirements	David Harper (208) 983-1963
	Proposed Action: Request for permit to dredge approximately ½ mile of the South Fork of the Clearwater River.				
**Mill Creek Culvert Replacement	Various sites within the Mill Creek Drainage	Ongoing	**Apr 2004	Analysis ongoing	Wayne Paradis (208) 983-1963
	Proposed Action: Replace 1 to 3 culverts within the Mill Creek Drainage.				
**Trout Creek Outfitters	Mill Creek and portions of Johns Creek Drainages	Ongoing	Jan 2004	**Completed	John Fantini (208) 839-2211
	Proposed Action: Add trail rides to permitted activities.				
**Blacktail Fuels	Clearwater Ranger District All or portions of T29N, R3E; T29N, R4E; T30N, R3E; T30N, R4E; T30N, R5E; T31N, R5E	July, 2002	**Dec 2004	Analysis ongoing	Kristen Sanders (208) 983-1963
	Proposed Action: Fuels treatment by thinning, harvesting, and/or prescribed burning to reduce fuel hazard and to restore/maintain open Ponderosa/Douglas fir stands.				

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Moose Creek Ranger District

Project/Activity Name	Location ¹	The Date Scoping either Began or is Planned to Begin	Estimated Date of Decision ²	Status of the NEPA Process	Forest Service Contact
**Noxious Weed Control	Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Moose Creek & Shearer Administrative Sites & Airstrips	Accomplished 2000	**June 2004	Continuing Analysis	Joe Hudson (208) 926-4258
	Proposed Action: Reduce knapweed population by applying selective herbicides on administrative sites and associated airstrips to reduce vector potential and prevent export of weeds to other backcountry airstrips and areas.				
**Bilk Mountain/Spook Creek Trail Reconstruction	Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Trail #517	November 2002	**May 2004	Continuing Analysis	Paul Christensen (208) 926-4258
	Proposed Action: Reconstruct nine miles of the Bilk Mountain Trail #517 from the trailhead near Elk Mountain to its junction with the Copper Butte Trail #602. Install drainage.				
Fog Mountain/Indian Hill Trailhead Reconstruction	Fog Mountain and Indian Hill Trailheads	April 2004	Sept 04	Analysis	Paul Christensen (208) 926-4258
	Proposed Action: Reconstruct railhead facilities at Fog Mountain Trailhead and Indian Hill Trailhead, which are major Wilderness portals. The reconstruction includes site-hardening, stock handling facilities, signing and vault toilets.				
East Moose Trail Reconstruction	Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Trail #421	June 2004	March 2005	Scoping	Paul Christensen (208) 926-4258
	Proposed Action: Reconstruct trail to Opportunity Class III guidelines, for approximately 18 miles.				
Three Links & Cupboard Creek Bridges	Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Trail #4	Dec. 2004	June 2005	Scoping	Paul Christensen (208) 926-4258
	Proposed Action: Replace bridge over Three Links Creek and replace bridge at Cupboard Creek.				
**Seminole Ranch-Tract 39 Land Exchange	Moose Creek- Red River Ranger Districts	March 2003	April 2004	EA is out for public Comment	Daryl Mullinix (208) 983-1950
	Proposed Action: Land exchange Rationale: Consolidate Fragmented lands and enhance management of the wilderness.				

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Red River Ranger District

Project/Activity Name	Location ¹	The Date Scoping either Began or is Planned to Begin	Estimated Date of Decision ²	Status of the NEPA Process	Forest Service Contact
Crooked River Channel Project	T28N, R7E, Section 1 Crooked River Drainage	December 1996	**Sept 2003	Supplemental Information Report signed, project implementation scheduled for FY 2004	Nick Gerhardt (208) 983-1950
	Proposed Action: Maintenance of in-channel structures and extension of berm. Rationale: Improve sediment transport in main channel, decrease risk of capture of main flow by side channel.				
Genesis Minerals Exploration	T28N, R9E, Sections 6&7; Country Road 222	September 1998	July 2004	On hold pending NPDES permit from EPA	Jo Ellis (208) 842-2245
	Proposed Action: Commercial suction dredging.				
**Seminole Ranch-Tract 39 Land Exchange	Moose Creek- Elk City	March 2003	April 2004	EA is out for public Comment	Daryl Mullinix (208) 983-1950
	Proposed Action: Land exchange Rationale: Consolidate Fragmented lands and enhance management of the wilderness.				
Cache Creek Bridge	T26N, R11E, NE Sec. 32	December 2001	Mar 2004	Minimum requirement analysis ongoing.	Gary Loomis (208) 842-2245
	Proposed Action: Replace stringers with native material on site.				
**Dixie Summit Tree Removal	T26N R8E Sections 3, 9, 10, 11, 14, 22, and 23	March 2004	July 2004	Pre-scoping.	Gene Delimata (208) 842-2100
	Proposed Action: Thinning and removal of trees along roads near Dixie Summit, to slow the spread of mountain pine beetle infestation.				

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**Red River Salvage	Red River drainage	December 2001	N/A	**Due to timing & location. This project is being combined with Red Pines EIS to be analyzed.	Ester Hutchison (208) 983-1950
	<p>Proposed Action: Salvage merchantable dead and dying trees in the Red River drainage in areas where mortality is concentrated.</p> <p>Rationale: Recover merchantable material before it loses value.</p>				
American and Crooked River Project	T28 & 29 N, R7 & 8E American and Crooked River Drainages	September 2003	June 2004	Environmental Analysis ongoing	Phil Jahn 208-983-1950
	<p>Proposed Action: Forest proposes to harvest or otherwise treat timber stands including dead, dying, or downed trees and trees at risk of mountain pine beetle attack (primarily lodgepole pine). Incidental harvest of trees that are dead and dying from other insects and diseases would also occur within the project area. Proposed harvesting and associated treatments, including road treatments, would be conducted on approximately 3000 acres in portions of the American and Crooked River watersheds.</p> <p>Purpose and Need: The purpose of this project is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Reduce existing and potential forest fuels ◆ Create conditions that will contribute to sustaining long-lived fire tolerant tree species (ponderosa pine, western larch) ◆ Contribute to the economic and social well being of people who use and reside within the surrounding area. 				
**This-is-it Placer mining	Red River RD Summit Flat, Crooked River Drainage T28N R7E Sect 27	May 2004	Aug 2004	Pre-scoping	Jo Ellis (208) 842-2103
	Proposed Action: Claimant proposed gold placer mining operations				
**EMC #1 Placer Mining	Red River RD Newsome Creek	April 2004	Aug 2004	Pre-scoping	Jo Ellis (208) 842-2103
	Proposed Action: Claimant proposed gold placer mining operations				

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Sheep – Drumlommen Trail Reconstruction	Sheep Creek and Crooked Creek Drainages	March 2003	Oct 2004	Analysis continuing	Gary Loomis (208) 842-2245
<p>Proposed Action: Reconstruct 16 miles of trail tread on Drumlommen Ridge, reconstruction 1 mile of Sheep Creek Trial #201, construct a ford on E. Fork Sheep Creek, and install waterbars, tread reconstruction, brushing and signing on War Eagle Trail #203 and Arlington Ridge Trail #202.</p> <p>Rationale: The work on Drumlommen Ridge is needed to get it to a maintainable condition, the work on Sheep Creek Trail #201 is needed to repair the damage done by the floods of 1997, the work on East Fork Sheep Creek is to improve safety and War Eagle Trail #203 and Arlington Ridge Trail #202 is to reduce resource damage from lack of drainage.</p>					
**Newsome Defensible Space Project	T29N, R7E, Section 1; T30N, R7E, Sections 30 & 31; T31N, R6E, Section 24	December 2002	**Oct 2003	** Complete awaiting implementation	Tim Button (208) 842-2224
<p>Proposed Action: Reduce hazardous fuels on national forest lands adjacent to structures</p> <p>Rationale: To reduce the threat of wildland fire to life, structures, and property; and to improve the safety and capabilities for fire fighters in fire suppression activities.</p>					
**Whiskey-South Defensible Space Project (BLM Project)	T29N, R8E, Sections 30, 31, 32, 33	December 2002	**Mar 2004	Decision Notice signed 3-9-2004.	Mark Craig BLM (208) 962-3245
<p>Proposed Action: Reduce hazardous fuels on Forest lands adjacent to structures.</p> <p>Rationale: To reduce the threat of wildland fire to life, structures and property; and to improve the safety and capabilities for fire fighters in fire suppression activities.</p>					
**Red Pines Fuel Reduction Project	Red River Watershed - T27N, R8, 9, 10 E; T28N, R 8, 9, 10 E	June 2003	**Feb 2005	Project was combined with Red River Salvage due to timing & location. Analyzing environmental effects	Ester Hutchison (208) 983-1950
<p>Proposed Action: Treat existing and potential fuel loads with harvest and under burning activities and meet Forest Plan requirements for upward trend in fish habitat and water quality through a range of watershed improvement activities.</p>					

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- New procedures, provided under the National Environmental Policy Act, to allow priority fuels reduction and forest restoration projects identified through collaboration with state, local and tribal governments and interested parties to move forward more quickly. The Forest Service has implemented at least 46 high priority projects using the new procedures, and the Bureau of Land Management is currently implementing more than 20 projects.
 - Improvement of the agencies' administrative appeal rules to encourage early and more meaningful public participation to expedite appeals of forest health projects. To date, the Forest Service has initiated approximately 166 projects under the revised appeals regulation with only nine appeals reported.
 - Guidance to Federal agencies to make consultations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) more timely and better account for long-term benefits to threatened and endangered species, and proposing new regulations under ESA to expedite consultation for forest health projects that are not likely to harm threatened or endangered species or their habitat.
 - Guidance from the Council on Environmental Quality to improve environmental assessments (EAs) for priority forest health projects. The Departments of Agriculture and the Interior have implemented this guidance by preparing EAs for 15 pilot fuels treatment projects. Thus far, the agencies have completed EAs using the enhanced process on 13 of the 15 pilot projects.
 - New regulations under ESA, completed by the Fish & Wildlife Service, that are expected to significantly accelerate the planning, review and implementation of activities under the National Fire Plan.
- contracting authority, which allows Federal agencies to enter into long-term (up to 10 years) contracts with small businesses, communities and nonprofit organizations to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health.
- The new authority allows contractors, community groups, and others to keep the wood material as partial payment for their service, while improving environmental conditions and adhering to applicable environmental regulations.
 - Long-term contracts foster a public/private partnership to restore forest and rangeland health by giving contractors the incentive to invest in equipment and facilities needed to productively use material from forest thinning to make useful wood products or to produce biomass energy, all at a savings to taxpayers.
 - The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have approved stewardship contracts using the new authority requested by the President and provided by Congress. Stewardship contracting will increase as NEPA work is completed in 2004.

Record Amounts of Hazardous Fuels Restoration Work Accomplished

- In 2002, Federal land management agencies restored a record 2.25 million acres, an increase of a million acres over FY 2000 levels.
- In 2003, the agencies have already broken that record, restoring 2.6 million acres.
- The wildland-urban interface (WUI) and public and private lands of concern to communities at risk are a top priority — nearly 65 percent of forest restoration dollars has been invested in this area.
- Between 2001 and 2003, Federal agencies have increased our restoration of land in the WUI from 775,000 acres to 1,600,000 acres, more than doubling WUI acres treated.

Stewardship Contracting Legislation

- In December 2002, Congress enacted legislation proposed by the Bush Administration expanding stewardship

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- From 2001-2003, agencies treated a total of 7 million acres. By the end of FY 2004, that total will come to nearly 9.5 million acres. efficiencies achieved by this legislation, the new stewardship contracting authority, and other administrative program improvements.
- Since 2000, funding for hazardous fuels reduction has tripled to \$546 million this year for federal, state, tribal, and private projects. Future funding will be provided based on program performance and

For more information on the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 and the Healthy Forests Initiative, please visit
<http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/hfi/> or
<http://www.doi.gov/hfi/newhfi/>

Help Us Update Our Mailing List

The current quarterly report can be accessed electronically by going to our homepage at: www.fed.us/r1/nezperce. If you are receiving more than one copy of the NEPA Quarterly Schedule, have an address correction, or wish to have your name removed from our list, please call us at (208) 983-1950 or drop us a line at Forest Planning, Route 2, Box 475, Grangeville, ID 83530. We appreciate your help.

For Your Information

Your name and any comments that you make regarding an individual project may be subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). If you have any questions regarding the act, they may be addressed to Monica McGee, Forest FOIA Coordinator, Route 2, Box 475, Grangeville, ID 83530.

Forest Directory

The Nez Perce National Forest is in the Northern Region of the U.S. Forest Service, which is a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Nez Perce Forest has four ranger districts. Each District Ranger reports to the Forest Supervisor in Grangeville.

The quarterly list of projects is organized by ranger district. Legal notices of proposals and decisions are published in the Lewiston Morning Tribune (Lewiston). Legal notices of timber sale advertisements appear in the Idaho County Free Press (Grangeville).

You can get specific information on an individual project from the contact person listed. Feel free to phone, write, or visit. Office hours are generally from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM weekdays.

Nez Perce National Forest Headquarters BRUCE BERNHARDT, Forest Supervisor

Route 2, Box 475, Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-1950 FAX: (208) 983-4099

Salmon River Ranger District
Slate Creek Ranger Station
JACK CARLSON, District Ranger
HC01, Box 70, White Bird, ID 83554
(208) 839-2211 FAX: (208) 839-2211

Red River Ranger District
Elk City Ranger Station
TERRY NEVIUS, District Ranger
HC01, Box 416, Elk City, ID 83525
(208) 842-2245 FAX: (208) 842-2235

Clearwater Ranger District
DARCY PEDERSON, District Ranger
Route 2, Box 475, Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-1963 FAX: (208) 983-4056

Moose Creek Ranger District
Fenn Ranger Station
JOE HUDSON, District Ranger
HC75, Box 91, Kooskia, ID 83539
(208) 926-4258 FAX: (208) 926-7119

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NOTE: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or familial status. Persons with disabilities who require alternatives means of communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Nez Perce National Forest
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