

# *Nez Perce National Forest*

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

**July -- September, 2003**

### **Explanation of the Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions**

This report is intended to provide the public with information about the Nez Perce National Forest projects that have been proposed and are currently in the NEPA analysis stage. Most projects shown on the following pages do not have a final decision signed by the decision-maker. The primary purpose of this report is to inform interested members of the public early in the planning process. In this way you will have ample time to comment on projects that interest or affect you. In addition, this will increase the chances that your comments will be received in time to be considered in the final decision.

The forest would like to stress that your early participation in these projects will help to produce better decisions.

So if you have questions or comments, please feel free to call the Forest Service contact listed for each project. Office hours are generally from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM weekdays.

New projects are identified in the left column of the tables. All projects are located in Idaho County of the State of Idaho

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#### **Information on the WWW:**

Nez Perce Forest Information  
[www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce)

FS Northern Region Information  
[www.fs.fed.us/r1](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1)

National USFS Information  
[www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

### **Management Opportunities and Challenges**

In 2002, the Nez Perce National Forest completed a national hazardous fuels reduction pilot project around the town of Dixie. This project was a partnership between the Forest, Idaho Department of Lands, and homeowners who took efforts to reduce hazardous fuels within and around the town

site. In 2003, the Red River Ranger district has four additional hazardous fuels reduction projects that are in various stages of approval:

- The Red River Defensible Space projects identify treatment around approximately

15-21 private land parcels in the Red River Drainage.

- Another project calls for the reduction of hazardous fuels around private structures in the Newsome area.
- The third project will clear vegetation (hazardous fuels) around private structures in the Orogrande area.
- Finally, the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service are cooperatively planning the Whiskey-South project which would reduce hazardous fuels in and near the southwest corner of the Elk City township. Joint planning and hazardous fuel reduction will continue in future years.

In addition to these Forest projects, Forest and District Fire staff are working with the Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council, as well as its contractors, to complete an analysis of fire risk areas outside of National Forest boundaries. The Idaho Department of Lands and local fire departments for Idaho, Latah, and Clearwater Counties are also involved in these comprehensive efforts.

The Nez Perce Forest is currently evaluating the extent of insect infestations across the Forest to determine hazardous fuels reduction needs. The type of treatments that can best be used to break up the continuity and arrangement of vegetation and fuels will be identified and prioritized. This effort will be completed over the next two months, resulting in projects for funding that could be proposed for 2004 through 2010.

The Nez Perce National Forest will continue to staff, and when necessary pump up and prepare for action of it's fire-fighting resources across the Forest. The Red River Ranger district will staff work centers at Dixie, Red River, and Elk City. The Forest is prepared to move supplemental resources (firefighters, helicopter crewmembers,

and smokejumpers) from other districts to help suppress fires as needed.

The Red River Ranger District had 208 fires in the last 5 years (an average of 42 fires/year). This level of occurrence is below the 10-year average of 50 fires/year. The fires burned in the South Fork and Salmon River Sub-basins. In 1996, the Moose Butte Fire burned 80 acres in bug-killed timber.

While the Forest has wildland fire protection responsibilities for these communities, homeowners also have a responsibility to protect their own private property from wildland fires. The Red River District, in the past, has worked to make homeowners aware of what they can do to make their homes fire safe. This effort was partially successful but it was limited and did not reach the majority of home or property owners in Elk City. The Red River Ranger District office has brochures, videotapes and publications that Elk City residents can use to help them find out how to make their homes fire resistant. The local Red River District staff would be happy to meet with residents and discuss techniques that would be most effective in making their property fire safe.

It has taken decades for the forests in the intermountain west to achieve present hazardous fuels conditions. Bug kill is aggravating the problem and raising the threat of large and intense wildland fires. Actions designed to reduce fuels will take some time to put into practice. Through continued hazardous fuels reduction projects, the Forest hopes to reduce fire's effects on communities. Additionally, the Forest hopes to restore and maintain a healthy and sustainable environment.

The Forest will continue to suppress fires that have the potential to directly impact communities. Prevention efforts will be geared to helping communities and local residents prepare and make properties less susceptible to unwanted ignitions.

For further information on hazardous fuels reduction and defensible space, contact Ken Castro at (208) 983-4066.

## Forest-wide Projects

Project/Activity Name	Project Location	The Date Scoping either Began or is Planned to Begin	Estimated Date of Decision	Status of the NEPA Process	Forest Service Contact
Pre-commercial Thinning	Various locations throughout the Forest	January, 2003	** July, 2003	** Decision Document Preparation	** Meg Moynihan (208) 839-2211

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## Salmon River Ranger District

Project/Activity Name	Project Location	The Date Scoping either Began or is Planned to Begin	Estimated Date of Decision	Status of the NEPA Process	Forest Service Contact
<b>Salmon River Canyon Project</b>	Salmon River Canyon on the Nez Perce, Payette, Bitterroot, and Salmon-Challis NFs	July, 1998	** Fall, 2003	Finalizing decision document (ROD)	Bill Shields (208) 983-1950
<b>Clean Slate Ecosystem Mgt Project</b>	T27N, R3E, Sections 2-11, 14-36	January, 1997	** July, 2003	Awaiting completion of consultation	Mike McGee (208) 983-1950
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> An ecosystem management project (including timber harvest) that will integrate prescribed fire, aquatic restoration and terrestrial habitat improvement.				
<b>Moores/Black Butte Trail</b>	Portion between Plummer Point and Moores Guard Station	March, 1999	September, 2002	Decision analysis ongoing	John Fantini (208) 839-2211
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Trail reconstruction of approximately 5 ½ miles.				
<b>Water Well Installation at Spring Bar Campground</b>	T24N, R2E, Section 13	Ongoing	July, 2002	Analysis Ongoing	John Fantini (208) 839-2211
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Drilling of water well at Spring Bar Campground.				

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<b>Gold Lake Tunnel Stream Restoration</b>	T25N, R3E, Section 12	December, 2002	**July, 2003	**Decision document preparation	Garry Seloske (208) 839-2211
<b>Riggins Administrative Site Relocation</b>	Nez Perce National Forest Administrative site in Riggins, Id.	January, 2003	** signed on May 23, 2003	** EA Complete	Alicia Glassford (541) 426-5689
<b>Proposed Action:</b> Relocation of existing Hells Canyon National Recreation Office and Visitor Services at Riggins, Idaho, to a new facility at the same site. Project timing is affected by proposed State of Idaho highway widening project.					
<b>Elkhorn Creek Bridge Replacement</b>	T24N, R3E, Section 21	January, 2002	** October, 2003	Predecisional EA available in March, 2003	Daryl Mullinix (208) 983-1950
<b>French Creek Bridge Replacement</b>	T24N, R3E, Section 13	January, 2002	** October, 2003	Predecisional EA available in March, 2003	Daryl Mullinix (208) 983-1950
<b>Joe Springs Road Aggregate Source</b>	T27N, R1E, Section 29	March, 2003	September, 2003	Scoping ongoing	Daryl Mullinix (208)983-1950
<b>Boulder Creek Outfitters proposed boundary modification</b>	T28N, T29NR2E, R3E	February, 2003	July, 2003	Scoping completed	Don Sorensen (208) 839-2211

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## Clearwater Ranger District

Project/Activity Name	Project Location	The Date Scoping either Began or is Planned to Begin	Estimated Date of Decision	Status of the NEPA Process	Forest Service Contact
<b>Templeton Dredging Project</b>	Approximately ½ mile upstream of John’s Creek	Ongoing	Deferred	Pending NPDES permit requirements	David Harper (208) 983-1963
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Request for permit to dredge approximately ½ mile of the South Fork of the Clearwater River.				
<b>Mill Creek Culvert Replacement</b>	Various sites within the Mill Creek Drainage	** Ongoing	** Sept., 2003	Initial Scoping	Wayne Paradis (208) 983-1963
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Replace 1 to 3 culverts within the Mill Creek Drainage.				

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<b>Meadow Face Stewardship Project</b>	Meadow Creek watershed and adjacent face drainages are located in the South Fork Clearwater River Subbasin approximately 9 air miles east of Grangeville, Idaho	Completed	Completed	** Decision appealed on April 9, 2003  ** Decision affirmed on May 19, 2003	David Harper (208) 983-1963
<b>Proposed Action:</b> specific activities planned include reducing fuel build-up and fire hazards through commercial and pre-commercial thinning, conducting prescribed burns, restoring native grasses in meadows, maintaining weed free areas, restoring open ponderosa pine stands, improving big game winter range, reducing road densities and correcting deficiencies in remaining roads, improving trails, and otherwise maintaining recreational opportunities. Streams, which are outside their natural courses, will be returned to a more natural position, and instream structure will be restored where the morphology has changed due to management activities.					
<b>Trout Creek Outfitters</b>	Mill Creek and portions of Johns Creek Drainages	Ongoing	**Sept., 2003	Analysis ongoing	John Fantini (208) 839-2211
<b>Proposed Action:</b> Add trail rides to permitted activities.					

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<b>Blacktail Fuels</b>	Clearwater Ranger District All or portions of T29N, R3E; T29N, R4E; T30N, R3E; T30N, R4E; T30N, R5E; T31N, R5E	July, 2002	** Dec., 2003	Analysis ongoing	Kristen Sanders (208) 983-1963
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Fuels treatment by thinning, harvesting, and/or prescribed burning to reduce fuel hazard and to restore/maintain open Ponderosa/Douglas fir stands.				
<b>Meadow Creek Tree Improvement Site</b>	McComas Meadows area	June, 2003	August, 2003	Scoping	Megan Moynihan (208)-839-2211
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> To remove undesirable trees from the Meadow Creek tree improvement site. <b>Rationale:</b> This is a long-term study (28 year) to evaluate genetically superior ponderosa pine. Trees are starting to compete with one another and therefore selected trees will be removed.				

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## Moose Creek Ranger District

Project/Activity Name	Project Location	The Date Scoping either Began or is Planned to Begin	Estimated Date of Decision	Status of the NEPA Process	Forest Service Contact
<b>Noxious Weed Control</b>	Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Moose Creek & Shearer Administrative Sites & Airstrips	Accomplished 2000	** Dec., 2003	** Continuing Analysis	Joe Hudson (208) 926-4258
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> 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.				
<b>Bilk Mountain/Spook Creek Trail Reconstruction</b>	Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Trail #517	November, 2002	** Sept., 2003	** Continuing Analysis	Paul Christensen (208) 926-4258
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> 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.				
<b>Fog Mountain/Indian Hill Trailhead Reconstruction</b>	Fog Mountain and Indian Hill Trailheads	** August, 2003	** Dec., 2003	** Scoping	Paul Christensen (208) 926-4258
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Reconstruct trailhead 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.				

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<b>Selway Water Systems</b>	Lower Selway River corridor Cedar Flats to Johnson Bar	November, 2002	April, 2003	** Decision Memo Signed	Paul Christensen (208) 926-4258
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Install waterline from Fenn Ranger Station to Johnson Bar Campground. Construct water well for O'Hara Campground. Install RV waste dump and water station at Cedar Flats to service upriver campgrounds along the Selway River.				
<b>East Moose Trail Reconstruction</b>	Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Trail #421	October, 2003	April, 2004	** Scoping	Paul Christensen (208) 926-4258
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Reconstruct trail to Opportunity Class III guidelines, for approximately 18 miles.				
<b>Three Links &amp; Cupboard Creek Bridges</b>	Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Trail #4	April, 2004	December, 2004	** Scoping	Paul Christensen (208) 926-4258
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Replace bridge over Three Links Creek and replace bridge at Cupboard Creek.				

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## Red River Ranger District

Project/Activity Name	Project Location	The Date Scoping either Began or is Planned to Begin	Estimated Date of Decision	Status of the NEPA Process	Forest Service Contact
<b>Crooked River Channel Project</b>	T28N, R7E, Section 1 Crooked River Drainage	December, 1996	** August, 2003	** Currently awaiting results of consultation and permitting	Nick Gerhardt (208) 983-1950
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Maintenance of in-channel structures and extension of berm. <b>Rationale:</b> Improve sediment transport in main channel, decrease risk of capture of main flow by side channel.				
<b>Genesis Minerals Exploration</b>	Red River, T29N, R7E, Section 21 along road #307	September, 1998	** July, 2003	On hold pending NPDES permit from EPA	Jo Ellis (208) 842-2245
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Drilling in the shoulder of the road.				
<b>Nugget Pt. Trail #828</b>	Newsome Creek Drainage	June, 1999	** October, 2003	Analysis ongoing	Gary Loomis (208) 842-2245
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Locate and reconstruct tread through clearcuts, switchbacks, post signs, install drivable drain drips and outlet ditches. <b>Rationale:</b> This trail receives moderate to high OHV use. The current tread has been created by these OHV users and is a resource problem due to lack of drainage.				

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<b>Avista Special Use</b>	Various watersheds	March, 2001	** Summer, 2003	** Awaiting final consultation	Bill Shields (208) 842-2245
	<p><b>Proposed Action:</b> Approve the renewal of the special use permit for an existing 75+ mile kV electrical distribution line.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Distribution line serves the communities of Elk City, Newsome, Red River, and Orogrande</p>				
<b>East Fork Crooked River Bridge Replacement</b>	Crooked River T27N, R7E, Section 11	July, 2001	** May 6, 2003	** Complete	Bill Shields (208) 842-2245
	<p><b>Proposed Action:</b> Remove existing bridge and replace with a new, single span, pre-manufactured bridge; install temporary bridge approximately 20 feet downstream of existing bridge to provide access during construction activities.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Bridge maintenance inspections have identified problems related to the bridge structure and stream flow beneath the bridge.</p>				
<b>Cache Creek Bridge</b>	T26N, R11E, NE Sec. 32	December, 2001	** October, 2003	** Rescoped in 2003. Minimum requirement analysis ongoing.	Gary Loomis (208) 842-2245
	<p><b>Proposed Action:</b> Replace stringers with native material on site.</p>				

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<b>Cache Creek Bridge</b>	T26N, R11E, NE Sec. 32	December, 2001	** October, 2003	** Rescoped in 2003. Minimum requirement analysis ongoing.	Gary Loomis (208) 842-2245
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Replace stringers with native material on site.				
<b>Red River Hazard Tree Removal</b>	Red River drainage	December, 2001	** Sept., 2003	Environmental analysis ongoing	Bill Shields (208) 842-2245
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Salvage merchantable dead and dying trees in the Red River drainage that are within approximately 500 feet of 167 miles of existing roads in areas where mortality is concentrated. <b>Rationale:</b> Recover merchantable material before it loses value.				
<b>American and Crooked River Defensible Space Project</b>  ** (NEW PROJECT)	American River and Crooked River Drainages	September, 2003	May, 2004	Initial Planning Phase	Phil Jahn (208)-983-1950
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Reduce hazardous fuels and enhance forest health on national forest lands through a combination of salvage, thinning, underburning, and watershed improvement activities to meet forest plan upward trend requirements. <b>Rationale:</b> To reduce the threat of wildland fire to life, structures, property, and other natural resource values in the surrounding areas.				

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<b>Red Pines Fuels Reduction</b>  <b>** (NEW PROJECT)</b>	T27 & 28N, R8,9 & 10E.  <b>Proposed Action:</b> Reduce fuel hazards in the Red River drainage in areas that have high existing and potential fuel loads through a combination of salvage, precommercial and commercial thinning, and/or underburning on approximately 6,505 acres. Approximately 25 miles of temporary road would be constructed and decommissioned following activities, and approximately 18 miles of existing road would be reconditioned to facilitate fuel hazard reduction activities. In addition, a range of watershed improvement activities are proposed that would meet Forest Plan upward trend requirements; these proposed activities include decommissioning 40 to 45 miles of roads that do not improve access to the area, reducing erosion from existing roads and other sites, and stream improvements.  <b>Rationale:</b> Treat existing and potential fuel loads in order to reduce the effects of potential large-scale wildfire.	June, 2003	April, 2004	Scoping	Kara Chadwick (208) 983-1950
<b>Red River Drainage Defensible Space Project</b>	French Gulch to Red River Hotsprings  <b>Proposed Action:</b> Reduce hazardous fuels on Forest lands adjacent to structures. <b>Rationale:</b> 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.	August, 2001	Summer, 2003	Decision document finalization	Gene Delimata (208) 842-2245

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<b>Sheep – Drumlommen</b>  <b>** (NEW PROJECT)</b>	Sheep Creek and Crooked Creek Drainages  <b>Proposed Action:</b> Reconstruct 16 miles of trail tread on Drumlommen Ridge, reconstruct 1 mile of Sheep Ck Trail #201, construct a ford on E. Fork Sheep Ck., and install waterbars, tread reconstruction, brushing and signing on War Eagle Trail #203 and Arlington Ridge Trail #202. <b>Rationale:</b> The work on Drumlommen Ridge is needed to get it to a maintainable condition, the work on Sheep Ck Trail #201 is needed to repair the damage done by the floods of 1997, the work on E. Fork Sheep Ck., is to improve safety and War Eagle Trail #203 and Arlington Ridge Trail #202 to reduce resource damage from lack of drainage.	March, 2003	October, 2003	Scoped	Gary Loomis (208) 842-2245
<b>Crooked River Road Corridor Demo Project</b>  <b>** (NEW PROJECT)</b>	A quarter to half mile segment of the Crooked River Road between Hwy 14 and Orogrande  <b>Proposed Action:</b> Remove dead, dying, overcrowded, and diseased trees and vegetation within 200 feet along a short (less than one-half mile) section of the Crooked River Road. <b>Rationale:</b> To provide a demonstration area for possible future activities designed to reduce fuel hazards and improve road maintenance efficiency and effectiveness along major forest routes to residential areas, such as Orogrande.	July, 2003	August, 2003	Specialist surveys	Phil Jahn (208) 983-1950

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<b>Newsome Defensible Space Project</b>	T29N, R7E, Section 1; T30N, R7E, Sections 30 & 31; T31N, R6E, Section 24	December, 2002	** July, 2003	** Specialists surveys	** Tim Button (208) 842-2224
<p><b>Proposed Action:</b> Reduce hazardous fuels on national forest lands adjacent to structures  <b>Rationale:</b> 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>					
<b>Whiskey-South Defensible Space Project</b>  <b>** (NEW PROJECT)</b>	T29N, R8E, Sections 30, 31, 32, 33	December, 2002	Fall, 2003	Analysis ongoing	Bill Shields -USFS (208) 842-2245 and Mark Craig BLM (208)-962-3245
<p><b>Proposed Action:</b> Reduce hazardous fuels on Forest lands adjacent to structures.  <b>Rationale:</b> 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>					



## **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](http://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. Their names and addresses are shown on the next page.

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

**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 Headquarters**  
**BRUCE BERNHARDT, Forest Supervisor**  
Route 2, Box 475, Grangeville, ID 83530  
(208) 983-1950 FAX: (208) 983-4099

<b>Salmon River Ranger District</b> <b>Slate Creek Ranger Station</b> <b>JACK CARLSON, District Ranger</b> HC01, Box 70, White Bird, ID 83554 (208) 839-2211 FAX: (208) 839-2211	<b>Red River Ranger District</b> <b>Elk City Ranger Station</b> <b>TERRY NEVIUS, District Ranger</b> HC01, Box 416, Elk City, ID 83525 (208) 842-2245 FAX: (208) 842-2235
<b>Clearwater Ranger District</b> <b>DARCY PEDERSON, District Ranger</b> Route 2, Box 475, Grangeville, ID 83530 (208) 983-1963 FAX: (208) 983-4056	<b>Moose Creek Ranger District</b> <b>Fenn Ranger Station</b> <b>JOE HUDSON, District Ranger</b> HC75, Box 91, Kooskia, ID 83539 (208) 926-4258 FAX: (208) 926-711



Nez Perce National Forest  
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Grangeville, ID 83530

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