



# *Nez Perce National Forest*

## National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

### Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions

**October – December 2003**



United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Grangeville, Idaho

## **FOREST PLAN REVISION**

In FY 2003 the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests initiated their Forest Plan Revision process under a zone concept. A core team consisting of nine members was established at the Kamiah Ranger Station. The facility at Kamiah has been reconfigured to accommodate the core team and seven of the nine members are in place. A wildlife biologist and hydrologist still need to be filled. The core team will facilitate the use of ad hoc expertise from both forests as needed.

In addition to the near establishment of the core team, the following objectives were accomplished in FY03:

- ✓ A records system for the revision was developed and implemented.
- ✓ Revision topics were developed and selected.
- ✓ A communication strategy was initiated.
- ✓ Communication/coordination with the Nez Perce Tribe was initiated.
- ✓ A social assessment contract was developed, awarded and implemented.
- ✓ Preliminary drafts of AMS chapters 1,2 &3 are complete (Target for RO Review – Jan. 04)
- ✓ Base GIS layers are established.

In FY04 The Clear/Nez revision zone will complete the AMS, develop a Proposed Action, release the NOI initiating formal scoping, and begin development of alternatives for the Draft EIS.

On page 9 you will find the October 2003 *Revision Reporter*. This *Revision Reporter*

offers additional information on the Forest Plan Revision process and gives you an opportunity to be placed on the Forest Plan mailing list. The list will be used to distribute revision information and request comments.



## **QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS**

You may have noticed that we have been making some format changes recently. We ask for your patience. Our Forest Planner, Dick Artley, recently retired and the new Forest Planner, Esther Hutchison, will report for duty in mid-October. She may decide to make additional format changes to this report. Thank you for your patience.

**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)

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## Forest-wide Projects

Project/Activity Name	Location <sup>1</sup>	The Date Scoping either Began or is Planned to Begin	Estimated Date of Decision <sup>2</sup>	Status of the NEPA Process	Forest Service Contact
<b>**Supplemental EIS to Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Noxious Weed Treatments, Environmental Impact Statement signed August 1999.</b>	Nez Perce, Bitterroot, Payette, and Salmon-Challis National Forests	November 1, 2003, for supplemental EIS	March 2004	FEIS completed August 1999, scoping for supplemental EIS	<b>Howard Lyman</b> Nez Perce NF 208-983-1950 <b>Ken Wotring</b> Salmon Challis NF 208-756-7900

<sup>1</sup> All projects are located in Idaho County of the State of Idaho

<sup>2</sup> Date the Record of Decision, Decision Notice, or Decision Memo will be signed.

\*\* This depicts project changes from the July-September 2003 schedule of proposed actions.

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## Salmon River Ranger District

Project/Activity Name	Location <sup>1</sup>	The Date Scoping either Began or is Planned to Begin	Estimated Date of Decision <sup>2</sup>	Status of the NEPA Process	Forest Service Contact
<b>Salmon River Canyon Project</b>	Salmon River Canyon - Nez Perce, Payette, Bitterroot, and Salmon-Challis NFs	July 1998	Fall 2003	Finalizing decision document (ROD)	<b>Bill Shields</b> (208) 983-1950
<b>Clean Slate Ecosystem Mgt Project</b>	T27N, R3E, Sections 2-11, 14-36	January 1997	** Oct 2003	Finalizing ROD, expect decision in late October	<b>Mike McGee</b> (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 & Moores Guard Station	March, 1999	Sept 2002	**Complete, implemented	<b>John Fantini</b> (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	**Completed	<b>John Fantini</b> (208) 839-2211
<b>Proposed Action:</b> Drilling of water well at Spring Bar Campground.					
<b>Gold Lake Tunnel Stream Restoration</b>	T25N, R3E, Section 12	December, 2002	**Oct 2003	**Finalizing Decision Memo	<b>Garry Seloske</b> (208) 839-2211
<b>Elkhorn Creek Bridge Replacement</b>	T24N, R3E, Section 21	January, 2002	**Jan 2004	Awaiting final approval from NMFS	<b>Daryl Mullinix</b> (208) 983-1950
<b>French Creek Bridge Replacement</b>	T24N, R3E, Section 13	January, 2002	**Jan 2004	Predecisional EA available in March 2003	<b>Daryl Mullinix</b> (208) 983-1950
<b>Avista - Joe Springs Road Aggregate Source</b>	T27N, R1E, Section 29	March 2003	**Aug 2004	Scoping completed	<b>Daryl Mullinix</b> (208) 983-1950
<b>Boulder Ck Outfitters proposed boundary mod</b>	T28N, T29NR2E, R3E	February 2003	**July 2004	Scoping completed	<b>Don Sorensen</b> (208) 839-2211
<b>**Moore/Black Butte Trail V</b>	Portion between Anchor Creek and Moore's Guard Station	March 1999	January 2004	Analysis ongoing	<b>John Fantini</b> (208) 839-2211

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## Clearwater Ranger District

Project/Activity Name	Location <sup>1</sup>	The Date Scoping either Began or is Planned to Begin	Estimated Date of Decision <sup>2</sup>	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	<b>David Harper</b> (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	** Dec 2003	Analysis ongoing	<b>Wayne Paradis</b> (208) 983-1963
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Replace 1 to 3 culverts within the Mill Creek Drainage.				
<b>Trout Creek Outfitters</b>	Mill Creek and portions of Johns Creek Drainages	Ongoing	**Dec 2003	Analysis ongoing	<b>John Fantini</b> (208) 839-2211
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Add trail rides to permitted activities.				
<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	** June 2004	Analysis ongoing	<b>Kristen Sanders</b> (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>**Avista – Power Line Special Use Permit</b>	Clearwater – Red River Districts	Complete	Dec 2003	Awaiting final ESA consultation	<b>Daryl Mullinix</b> (208) 983-1950

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## Moose Creek Ranger District

Project/Activity Name	Location <sup>1</sup>	The Date Scoping either Began or is Planned to Begin	Estimated Date of Decision <sup>2</sup>	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	<b>Joe Hudson</b> (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	** Jan 2004	Continuing Analysis	<b>Paul Christensen</b> (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	<b>Paul Christensen</b> (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.				
<b>East Moose Trail Reconstruction</b>	Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Trail #421	October, 2003	April, 2004	Scoping	<b>Paul Christensen</b> (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	Dec 2004	Scoping	<b>Paul Christensen</b> (208) 926-4258
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Replace bridge over Three Links Creek and replace bridge at Cupboard Creek.				
<b>**Seminole Ranch Exchange</b>	Moose Creek/Red River Districts	Complete	June 2004	Draft EA being circulated for comment	<b>Daryl Mullinix</b> (208) 983-1950

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## Red River Ranger District

Project/Activity Name	Location <sup>1</sup>	The Date Scoping either Began or is Planned to Begin	Estimated Date of Decision <sup>2</sup>	Status of the NEPA Process	Forest Service Contact
<b>Crooked River Channel Project</b>	T28N, R7E, Section 1 Crooked River Drainage	December, 1996	Aug 2003	Awaiting results of consultation & permitting	<b>Nick Gerhardt</b> (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>	**T28N, R9E, Sections 6&7; Country Road 222	September 1998	**July 2004	On hold pending NPDES permit from EPA	<b>Jo Ellis</b> (208) 842-2245
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Commercial suction dredging.				
<b>**AURM Placer</b>	T29N, R7E, Section 21, along road #307	June 26, 2003	Sept 24, 03	Decision memo signed	<b>Jo Ellis</b> (208) 842-2245
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Gold Exploration, drilling in the shoulder of the road				
<b>Nugget Pt. Trail #828</b>	Newsome Creek Drainage	June, 1999	Oct 2003	Analysis ongoing	<b>Gary Loomis</b> (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.				
<b>**Avista – Power Line Special Use Permit</b>	Clearwater – Red River Districts	Complete	Dec 2003	Awaiting final ESA consultation	<b>Daryl Mullinix</b> (208) 983-1950
<b>Cache Creek Bridge</b>	T26N, R11E, NE Sec. 32	December 2001	Oct 2003	Minimum requirement analysis ongoing.	<b>Gary Loomis</b> (208) 842-2245
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Replace stringers with native material on site.				
<b>Red River Salvage</b>	Red River drainage	December 2001	Jan 2004	Environmental analysis ongoing	<b>Clark Lucas</b> (208) 983-1950
	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Salvage merchantable dead and dying trees in the Red River drainage in areas where mortality is concentrated. <b>Rationale:</b> Recover merchantable material before it loses value.				

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**American and Crooked River Project	T28 & 29 N, R7 & 8E American and Crooked River Drainages	September 2003	June 2004	Scoping	<b>Phil Jahn</b> 208-983-1950
	<p><b>Proposed Action:</b> 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><b>Purpose and Need:</b> The purpose of this project is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Reduce existing and potential forest fuels</li> <li>◆ Create conditions that will contribute to sustaining long-lived fire tolerant tree species (ponderosa pine, western larch)</li> <li>◆ Contribute to the economic and social well being of people who use and reside within the surrounding area.</li> </ul>				
Sheep – Drumlumen Trail Reconstruction	Sheep Creek and Crooked Creek Drainages	March 2003	Oct 2003	Scoped	<b>Gary Loomis</b> (208) 842-2245
	<p><b>Proposed Action:</b> Reconstruct 16 miles of trail tread on Drumlumen Ridge, reconstruction 1 mile of Sheep Creek Trail #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><b>Rationale:</b> The work on Drumlumen 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>				
Crooked River Road Corridor Demo Project	¼ to ½ mile segment of Crooked River Road between Hwy 14 and Orogrande	July 2003	Aug 2003	Implementation	<b>Phil Jahn</b> (208) 983-1950
	<p><b>Proposed Action:</b> Remove dead, dying, overcrowded, and diseased trees and vegetation within 200 feet along a short (less than ½ mile) section of the Crooked River Road</p> <p><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.</p>				
Red River Drainage Defensible Space Project	French Gulch to Red River Hot Springs	August 2001	**Fall 2003	Awaiting finalization of consultation	<b>Gene Delimata</b> (208) 842-2245
	<p><b>Proposed Action:</b> Reduce hazardous fuels on Forest lands adjacent to structures.</p> <p><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>				

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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	Sept 2003	Environmental Effects Analysis	<b>Tim Button</b> (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 (BLM Project)</b>	T29N, R8E, Sections 30, 31, 32, 33	December 2002	Fall 2003	Analysis ongoing	<b>Mark Craig</b> 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>				
<b>Red Pines Fuel Reduction Project</b>	Red River Watershed - T27N, R8, 9, 10 E; T28N, R 8, 9, 10 E	June 2003	June 2004	Field review of proposed action and alternatives	<b>Kara Chadwick</b> (208) 983-4048





# Revision Reporter

## What are Forest Plans?

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976 required every national forest to develop a plan.

These plans provide broad, strategic direction for managing the resources on the national forests.

## Why Revise?

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests both signed their original plans in 1987, nearly 16 years ago.

Since this signing there have been numerous social and resource changes. Scientific information and methodology have evolved. Some changes have been addressed in amendments to the original Forest Plans; others have not been formally incorporated into the documents.

## Why Revise Together?

- The forests share similar issues, resources, and users.
- The forests share tribal trust and treaty responsibilities.
- The forests need to manage ecosystems across administrative boundaries.
- *Working together is more efficient and economical.*

## Forest Plan Revision Underway

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests have initiated an effort to revise their Land and Resource Management Plans, or Forest Plans. The planning area encompasses approximately four million acres of national forest land in north-central Idaho. From east to west, the national forest lands stretch from border to border. On the north is the rolling terrain of the Palouse. On the south is the rugged Salmon River canyon.

If you use these special lands for work or play, or if you value them for other purposes, you have an interest in this revision process.



Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests in Idaho

# Nez Perce National Forest – Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions

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## Forest Plan Revision Team

Ihor Mereszczak, Staff Officer  
Colleen Fahy, GIS Specialist  
Kris Hazelbaker, Ecologist  
Maple Kirtland, Records  
Cliff Mitchell, Recreation  
Elayne Murphy, Public Affairs  
Kurt Nelson, Fisheries Biologist

## Contact Us

Clearwater/Nez Perce Forest  
Plan Revision Team  
Kamiah Ranger Station  
Route 2, Box 191  
Kamiah, ID 83536  
Telephone: (208) 935-2513  
Fax: (208) 935-4275

## Website Coming Soon

We are in the process of developing a Forest Plan revision website. Over the next few weeks check the following websites for a link:

[www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater) or  
[www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce).

Our goal is to make this a valuable source of information regarding the revision effort.

## Sign Me Up

If you are interested in receiving future mailings specific to Forest Plan revision, please fill out the attached form, clip it out, and mail it to:

**Maple Kirtland  
Forest Plan Revision Team  
Route 2, Box 191  
Kamiah, ID 83536**

This completed sheet can also be faxed to Maple at **(208) 935-4275**.

## Key Questions

Because the 1987 Forest Plans and subsequent

amendments provide a solid foundation for forest management, the forests intend to retain the parts of the plans that are working well. The revision effort will focus on incorporating new information and revising the parts of the plans that aren't working well.

At this time, you can help us by answering three key questions:

- *What new information do we need to incorporate into the plans?*
- *What parts of the 1987 plans are working well?*
- *What parts of these plans aren't working well?*

If you have information or ideas you think would benefit the planning effort, please mail or fax them to the revision team.

## How Can I Get Involved?

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests recognize these are the people's lands and people should be actively involved in their planning and management. The forests intend to provide many opportunities for coordination and collaboration during the revision process.

Our goal is to conduct an open, two-way process between the forests and the people we serve. Through this process we expect to obtain substantive comments that will enable us to:

- Understand the needs and concerns of people,
- Broaden information bases, and
- Make better decisions.

Currently, we are creating a mailing list of individuals who want to receive additional information about Forest Plan revision and participation opportunities. If you want to subscribe, please fill out the form below and mail or fax it to our office.



**Yes!** Please sign me up to receive Forest Plan mailings. (Please print.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send all information to my mailing address.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please notify me by e-mail when new information is available.

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## 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.

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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Grangeville, ID 83530

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