

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

**USDA Forest Service
Nez Perce National Forest
Bitterroot National Forest
Payette National Forest
Salmon-Challis National Forest**

Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness (FC-RONRW) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Integrated Weed Management program within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness

The Salmon-Challis, Payette, Bitterroot, and Nez Perce National Forests are initiating an analysis of their existing Integrated Weed Management program within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness (FC-RONRW). A Record of Decision (ROD) signed in August 1999 and associated Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) currently authorizes integrated weed management in the FC-RONRW. This 1999 decision allowed invasive weed treatments to begin in the fall of 1999 and continue for the following five years. Conditions have changed since 1999 and the extent of inventoried weed infestations has increased due in part to wildfires.

There is a need for modifications to the 1999 integrated weed management strategy including the evaluation of additional weeds sites and the use of an additional herbicide to treat cheatgrass. This analysis will determine if the environmental effects documented in the 1999 ROD will change as a result of implementing the weed treatment modifications. The results of this analysis will be published in a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

A "Notice of Intent" (to prepare a Supplemental EIS) for this project was published in the Federal Register on September 8, 2003, officially starting the public involvement part of the analysis.

This analysis will review and disclose potential effects associated with continued implementation of the proposed action. Issues identified during the scoping period of this analysis will be used to evaluate the proposed action. Comments received may lead to a modification of the proposed action. Following this analysis, including public review and comment, a decision will be made to a) implement the proposed action, b) implement a modification of the proposed action, or c) continue the current integrated noxious weed program as stated in the 1999 Record of Decision. This analysis will be displayed in a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement due out for public comment in February 2004.

The Forests welcome your participation in this comment period. Your comments and suggestions are most useful if they are received early in the analysis process. The Forests will be better able to address your comments and suggestions if they are received by **November 30, 2003**. The information received will be used to refine existing issues or identify new issues. These issues

will in turn be used to evaluate existing alternatives and/or formulate new alternatives and mitigation measures.

Comments can be sent via email, mail, or fax to Howard Lyman, Program Coordinator, hlyman@fs.fed.us (208) 839-2730 (fax), or:

Salmon River Ranger District

Noxious Weeds EIS

Attn: Howard Lyman

HC 01 Box 70

White Bird, ID 83554

If you would like additional information about this project contact Howard Lyman, (208) 839-2211.

Comments received in response to this request, 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 will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision.