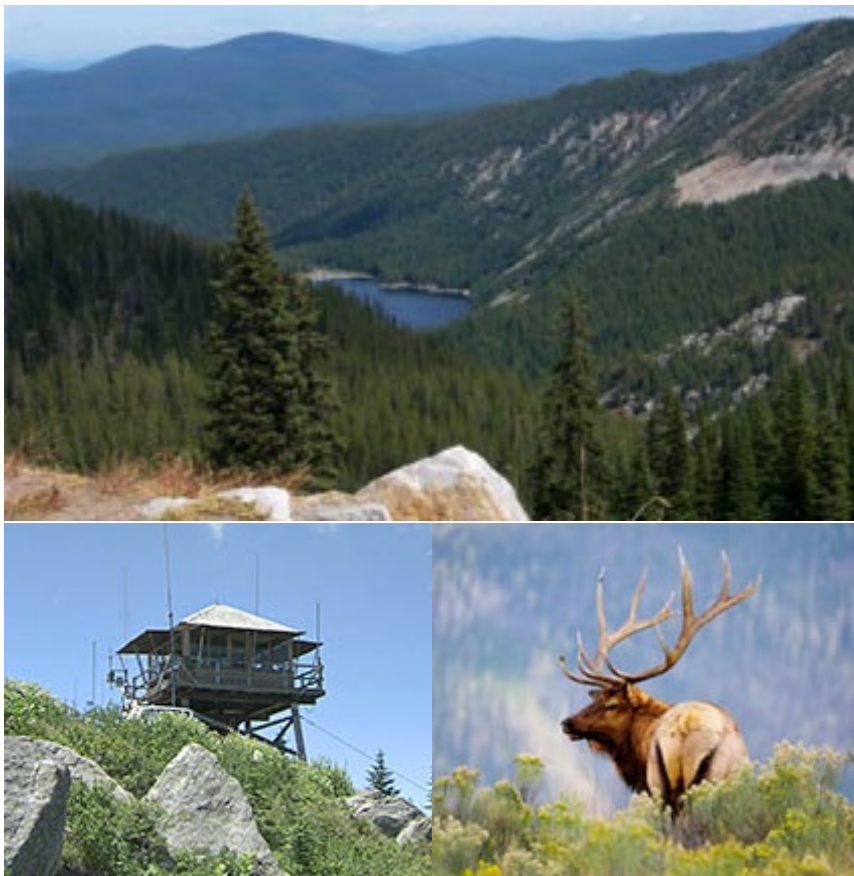


# **Draft Environmental Impact Statement- Executive Summary**

## **Land Management Plan Revision for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests**



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**Draft Environmental Impact Statement**  
**Revised Land Management Plan**  
**for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests**

**Lead Agency:** United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)- Forest Service

**Cooperating Agencies:** Idaho County, Idaho  
Clearwater County, Idaho  
State of Idaho  
Nez Perce Tribe (pending)

**Responsible Official:** Cheryl Probert, Forest Supervisor  
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**Abstract:** This draft environmental impact statement documents the analysis of alternatives developed for programmatic management of the four million acres administered by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

**Comments:** Comments on this draft environmental impact statement must be received or postmarked within 90 days of the Environmental Protection Agency's publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a way that they are useful to the Agency's preparation of the final environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in subsequent administrative or judicial reviews.

The decision to approve the revised forest plan for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests will be subject to the objection process identified in 36 CFR Part 219 Subpart B (219.50 to 219.62). Only those individuals and entities who have submitted substantive formal comments related to the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests' plan revision during the opportunities provided for public comment will be eligible to file an objection (36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 219.53(a)).

Electronic comments may be sent to:

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=44089>

Comments by U.S. Mail can be sent to: **Zach Peterson, Forest Planner**  
**903 3rd Street**  
**Kamiah, Idaho 83536**

Date Comments Must Be Received: Thursday, March 19, 2020



# Executive Summary

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## 1.1 Purpose and Need for Action

The National Forest Management Act requires all national forests to develop plans that direct resource management activities. These plans must be revised when conditions have changed significantly or around a ten- to fifteen-year cycle.

The existing plans for the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests were completed in 1987 and have been amended many times. The two Forests were administratively combined in 2013, and the Idaho Roadless Rule made management decisions that affected approximately 1.5 million acres of the Nez Perce-Clearwater. Revised Forest Service policies, congressional direction, court decisions, new or updated conservation agreements and recovery plans, and new scientific findings have all highlighted that the current plans are outdated and need to be revised.

To respond to these challenges the Nez Perce-Clearwater is currently in the process of revising the forest plans. The new, combined forest plan will incorporate changes in the natural environment, new scientific understandings and social trends, and will satisfy regulatory requirements.

The purpose is to revise the 1987 land management plans for the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests into a single revised land management plan under the 2012 Planning Rule based on the Need for Change identified in the proposed action, including:

- Administrative Consolidation and Age of Current Plans
- Integrated Restoration
- Ecological, Social, and Economic Sustainability
- Updates Related to Other Law, Regulation, or Policy
- State and Local Land Management Plans
- Best Available Scientific Information

This draft environmental impact statement documents a programmatic National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. It discloses the broad environmental impacts and benefits of the proposed alternatives in contrast to analyses conducted for site-specific projects. This document describes, in general terms, the expected effects of management during the plan period but does not predict the site-specific effects of future speculative actions each time the standards and guidelines are implemented at the project level. Those site-specific effects would be disclosed in subsequent NEPA reviews during the implementation of individual projects.

## 1.2 Best Available Scientific Information

Inventory information about forest land and water resources is more comprehensive than what was available in 1987 as a result of continued updates and new data management tools. The Forest Service now has geographic information system (GIS) technology, which greatly enhances assessment, analysis, and monitoring. Research and monitoring have increased our knowledge of the physical, biological, and social processes occurring on the Nez Perce-Clearwater during the last quarter of a century. Using science in planning provides the responsible official with the knowledge, methods, and resource expertise needed to make an informed decision. To ensure that the revised plan helps contribute to sustainable stewardship of the nation's forests, the Nez Perce-Clearwater has used the best available scientific information to inform the 2014 Assessment and the development of the proposed plan components.

Specialists used a number of sources of information that included peer-reviewed and technical literature; databases and data management systems; modeling tools and approaches; information obtained via participation and attendance at scientific conferences; local information, workshops, and collaborations; and information received during public participation periods for related planning activities, and expert opinion. Resource specialists considered what is most accurate, reliable, and relevant in their use of the best available scientific information. The citation list following each section of Chapter 3 serves as the Nez Perce-Clearwater's initial list of best available scientific information. A final determination of best available scientific information will be made with the Record of Decision.

### 1.3 Proposed Action

The Nez Perce-Clearwater is proposing to revise their current land management plans. Scoping was done with the release of the July 2014 proposed action and Notice of Intent in the Federal Register (79 FR 41252 document number 2014-16534). The proposed action document included preliminary identification of forestwide and management area desired conditions, objectives, standards, guidelines, and the suitability of lands for specific multiple uses, including those lands suitable for timber production. The proposed action included preliminary identification of the long-term sustained yield and planned sale quantity. It included a description of the plan area's distinctive roles and contributions within the broader landscape; the preliminary identification of priority restoration watersheds; and proposed and possible actions that may occur on the plan area over the life of the plan. The 2014 proposed action yielded 13,800 comments. From those comments, issues were identified (see Section 1.7).

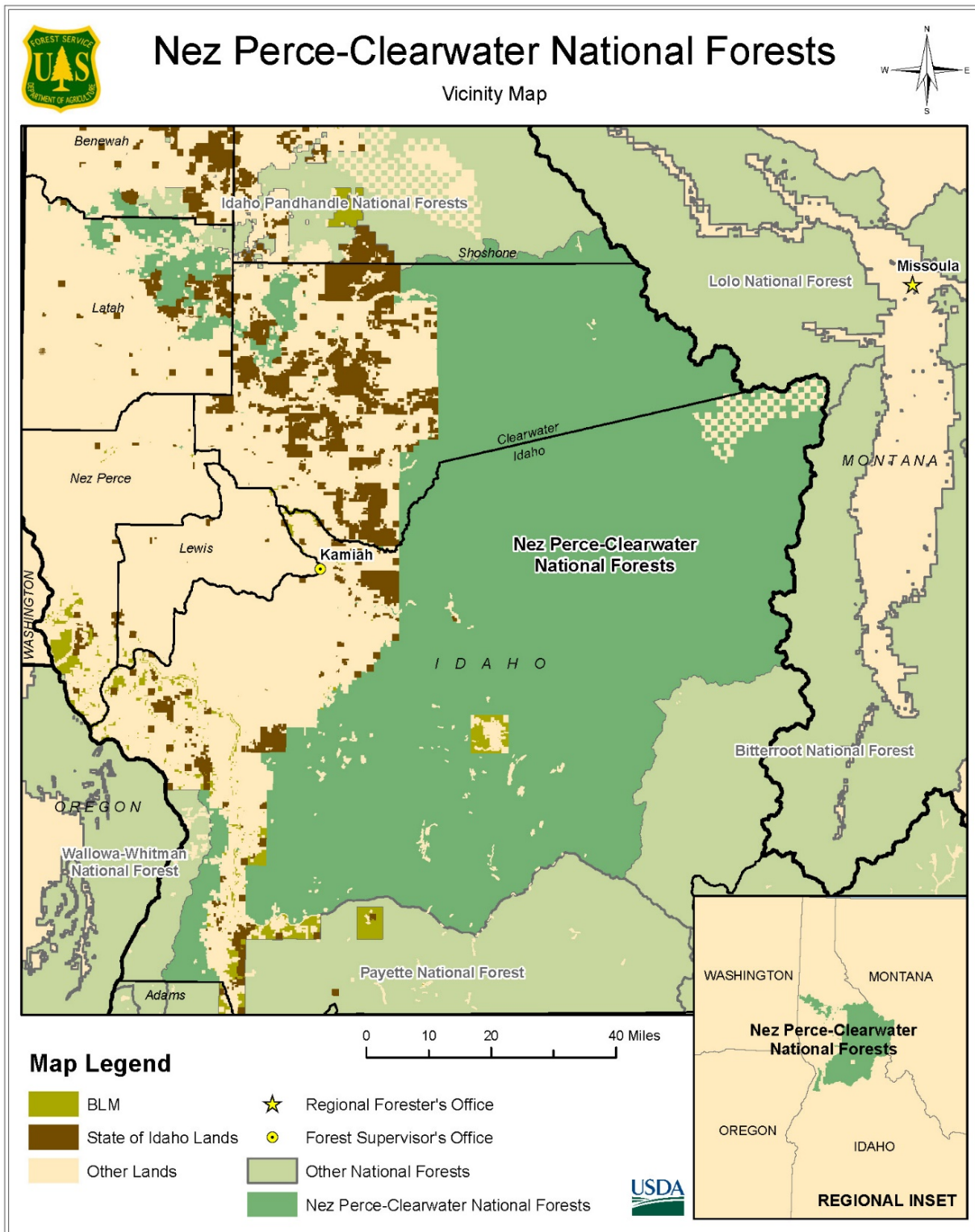
Modifications of the 2014 proposed action led to the release of the [2017 Framework for Alternative Development](#). This document explicitly stated it was not an alternative in itself but rather a set of theoretical plan components that could be used to develop alternatives. That document was considered as an alternative but will not be analyzed in detail. Some portions of the *Framework for Alternative Development* moved forward into one or more action alternatives to be analyzed based on robust collaboration during alternative development while other portions did not move forward at all.

A preferred alternative is not identified in the DEIS. Any individual component of any alternative analyzed in the DEIS may be combined into a preferred alternative. A preferred alternative will be identified with the release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Record of Decision in 2021.

### 1.4 The Planning Area

The Nez Perce-Clearwater is located in the heart of north-central Idaho, in a seven-county region comprising Idaho, Clearwater, Latah, Shoshone, Benewah, Lewis, and Nez Perce counties. The plan area encompasses six ranger districts: Palouse, North Fork, Lochsa and Powell, Moose Creek, Salmon River, and Red River. The Nez Perce-Clearwater is responsible for managing approximately four million acres across this landscape. The Clearwater River drains most of these acres within both forests and rugged mountain ranges, pristine rivers and streams, and extensive forested landscapes combine to create diverse ecosystems that provide spectacular recreational opportunities; substantial fish and wildlife habitat; and forest, minerals, and range products.

Figure 1. Vicinity Map of Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests





The landscape of the Nez Perce-Clearwater is characterized by deep, rugged river canyons surrounded by either rolling hills or steep, jagged mountains. Mixed conifer forests interspersed with small but distinctive open meadows, grasslands, and pockets of deciduous trees and shrubs comprise most of the vegetative cover. Rivers, lakes, and streams are often framed by lush riparian vegetation. Western redcedar, western larch, western hemlock, Douglas-fir, grand fir, lodgepole pine, and ponderosa pine are the dominant conifer species, which drape the canyon walls and stretch to the uplands. Historically, western white pine and whitebark pine were found throughout the area. Disturbance in the form of wildland fire, landslides, and insect and disease are continually cycling through the landscape. These natural processes create a patchwork of openings with vegetation at all age classes found across the Nez Perce-Clearwater.

The rich heritage of the area is still visible. American Indian use of the area dates back for millennia and the Nez Perce-Clearwater has been the home of the Nez Perce Tribe for centuries. Early travelers used routes through the Bitterroot Mountains to explore the far reaches of the country. These events have been remembered through the designation of the Lolo Trail Historic Landmark corridor and other historic routes that bisect the Nez Perce-Clearwater. Historic mining towns, log cabins, Forest Service facilities, wagon roads, and fire lookouts dot the landscape, adding to the unique scenic character of the area.

## 1.5 Management Areas and Geographic Areas

Management areas and geographic areas are spatially identified areas within the Nez Perce-Clearwater. These areas are assigned sets of plan components, such as desired conditions, suitable uses, and, in some areas, either standards or guidelines, or both. The entire forest is broken into Management Areas in the Draft Revised Forest Plan. Geographic areas, however, are reserved for locations that are important geographically and cross management areas yet are proposed to be managed under a common theme.

### Management Area 1: Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Historic Landmark Areas

Management Area 1 is comprised of protected areas with national designations. This management area consists of three sub-categories, each with their own specific management direction. The sub-categories include designated wilderness, designated wild and scenic rivers, and National Historic Landmarks. Components specific to Management Area 1 are coded as "MA1."

### Management Area 2: Backcountry

Management Area 2 includes lands within Idaho Roadless Areas, recommended wilderness areas, suitable wild and scenic rivers, parts of the Gospel-Hump Geographic Area, and proposed and designated research natural areas. This management area is made up of relatively large areas, generally without roads, and provides a variety of motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. Trails are the primary improvements constructed and maintained for recreation users. In some areas, lookouts, cabins, or other structures are present, as well as some evidence of management activities. Components specific to Management Area 2 are coded "MA2."

### Management Area 3: Front Country

The rest of the Nez Perce-Clearwater comprises Management Area 3. Most of this management area consists of the areas with roads, trails, and structures, as well as evidence of past and ongoing activities designed to actively manage the area. This management area includes parts of the Gospel-Hump Geographic Area and proposed and designated special interest areas. This management area provides a wide variety of recreation opportunities, both motorized and non-motorized. Components specific to Management Area 3 are coded "MA3."

### Geographic Area: Gospel-Hump

The Endangered American Wilderness Act (1978) divided the roadless area formerly known as the Gospel-Hump area into three portions. The largest portion, consisting of 206,000 acres, became wilderness; another portion, comprising 45,000 acres, became available for immediate development; and a third portion, including three areas totaling 92,000 acres referred to as the Gospel-Hump Multi-Purpose Area, was designated for multiple purpose resource development. Section Four of the Endangered American Wilderness Act directed the completion of the Gospel-Hump Multi-Purpose Plan, which was completed in 1985 and incorporated into the 1987 Nez Perce Forest Plan. The Endangered American Wilderness Act provides for periodic updates to this multi-purpose plan. This section fulfills that legislative intent and would replace the direction for the area found in the Gospel-Hump Multipurpose Resource Development Plan and the 1987 Nez Perce National Forest Land Management Plan.

### Geographic Area: Lower Salmon River

The Lower Salmon River area contains rich geological complexity, contributing to a biological community that is unique within the plan area. This geographic area contains a large portion of the driest of the warm dry potential vegetation group dominated by ponderosa pine under a frequent low intensity fire regime. These habitats support species associated with ponderosa pine dominated habitats, including several species of conservation concern.

### Geographic Area: Pilot Knob

The Pilot Knob geographic area, known as T'amloyiitsmexs by the Nez Perce, is a very important cultural and sacred site to the Nez Perce Tribe. T'amloyiitsmexs is a significant landmark used by the Nez Perce for "weyekin" or spiritual quests. Pilot Knob has a significant historic meaning with respect to the Nez Perce religious values and practices that have been used from time-immemorial and remains to be respected and used by Nez Perce tribal members. Per the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, these tribal religious rites can be conducted in no other place. The Nez Perce Tribe strives to maintain its cultural and traditional practices and to keep alive the knowledge of the beliefs and interpretations of such values. Because of its elevation and central location, Pilot Knob started being used as a site to locate communication equipment in 1977 with issuance of a communication use permit to the State of Idaho Military Division Public Safety Communications Unit. By 1988, the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee described that most of Pilot Knob's features had been altered, defaced, or destroyed by man-made devices. The Pilot Knob Geographic Area is also an Idaho Roadless Area with a "Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Importance" theme.

## 1.6 Public Involvement

The Nez Perce-Clearwater began public participation activities in 2012 and facilitated numerous public and interagency meetings to bring together information for the Nez Perce-Clearwater to consider in preparing the assessment, developing the proposed action, and developing alternatives to the proposed action. There were 22 rounds of public meetings between 2012 and 2014 to develop the 2014 Proposed Action. The first meeting was a summit to introduce the concepts of forest plan revision to the public. The next meetings discussed the Need to Change, the Desired Conditions, and Forest Resource Management, including wilderness and timber suitability and other plan components. Public input was compiled at each meeting, as well as throughout the process. The dialogue and recommendations from this public involvement process were used to help develop the draft proposed action.

In addition to postal mail and email, public meeting information was announced via the [forest plan revision website](#). The website also included a means for public comment using electronic or printed comment forms or submitting comments via an electronic database and posted meeting results and other information. Updates were posted periodically.

The notice of intent for the proposed action to prepare an environmental impact statement was published in the Federal Register on July 14, 2014. The notice of intent asked for public comment on the proposal for a 60-day period, which was extended to 120-days based on public requests. The Nez Perce-Clearwater held five public meetings to provide opportunities to better understand the proposed action so that meaningful public comments could be provided by the end of the scoping period. Using the comments from the public, other agencies, tribes, and organizations, the Nez Perce-Clearwater interdisciplinary team developed a list of issues to address through changes to the proposed action, development of alternatives, or in analysis of impacts of the proposed action. A corrected notice of intent was published on September 5, 2019, to correct the anticipated dates of availability of the draft environmental impact statement from 2015 to 2019 based on changes to our timeline.

Since the scoping period, public involvement has been ongoing. Stakeholders have been defined as any individual, organization, government, or tribe that is interested in our planning process. The forest plan revision team met with thousands of individuals from hundreds of organizations since 2012. Following the scoping period, the team continued to meet with any and every organization that invited the team to meet with them. This included attendance at well over 100 meetings between 2014 and the release of the draft environmental impact statement. The Nez Perce-Clearwater convened meetings on several occasions, including a meeting in May 2015 to update the public on what has happened since scoping, a webinar in December 2017 to prepare the public for alternative development, a meeting in January 2018 to solicit input on alternatives over three days in two locations, and another meeting in the summer of 2018 to share the alternatives being analyzed with the public over six meetings across the Nez Perce-Clearwater. Additionally, in 2018, County Commissions were briefed in public county commission meetings in the counties of Idaho, Clearwater, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce, Benewah, and Shoshone in Idaho and the counties of Ravalli, Superior, and Missoula in Montana.

Comments have been accepted at any time during the process and that acceptance will continue throughout the process. These comments have helped the interdisciplinary team develop plan components and alternatives, conduct analysis, determine the best available scientific information, conduct wilderness evaluations, create wild and scenic suitability reports, and develop a monitoring plan. Comments have also been used by the Regional Office in development of the Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) list.

Collaboration with groups terming themselves as such has also provided the Nez Perce-Clearwater with information that is used by the Nez Perce-Clearwater the same as other comments. The Nez Perce-Clearwater attends their meetings at their invite and does not give any decision-making authority to these collaborative groups. However, groups of people with diverse thoughts and needs working to solve problems working towards consensus on issues is taken very seriously and input of this sort is highly valued by the Forest Service, whether it comes from an organized collaborative or from elsewhere. The interdisciplinary team has meet with the following collaborative groups since 2012:

- Forest Plan Collaborative 2012-2014, U.S. Forest Service convened
- Clearwater Basin Collaborative (CBC) 2014-current, at their invitation
- Efficiency in Public Collaborative (EPC) 2019-current, at their invitation

## 1.7 Government Agency Involvement

Four agencies or governments have signed a cooperating agency agreement for plan revision with the Forest Service. These cooperating agencies participate in the development of the revised forest plan and draft environmental impact statement with regards to their areas of specialized expertise. Cooperating agencies participation in the forest plan revision is not an endorsement of the Revised Forest Plan nor does cooperating agency status limit their ability to participate during the public involvement process. Cooperating agencies include:

- Nez Perce Tribe
- Idaho County
- Clearwater County
- State of Idaho by and through the Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources.

The State of Idaho has been involved with Forest Planning since 2012. Various state agencies have been present at public meetings, met with the interdisciplinary team, provided information and data, and assisted in the development of plan components.

State agencies, offices, and commissions that have been involved include:

- Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources (lead agency)
- Idaho State Department of Agriculture
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho State Historic Preservation Office
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
- Idaho Department of Water Resources
- Idaho Geological Survey
- Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation.
- Idaho Governor's Idaho Roadless Commission
- Idaho Governor's Lewis and Clark Trail Commission

## 1.8 Forest Service Planning

The National Forest Management Act requires all national forests to develop plans that direct resource management activities. These plans must be revised when conditions have changed significantly or around a ten- to fifteen-year cycle.

The existing plans for the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests were completed in 1987 and have been amended many times. The two Forests were administratively combined in 2013, and the Idaho Roadless Rule made management decisions that affected approximately 1.5 million acres of the Nez Perce-Clearwater. Revised Forest Service policies, congressional direction, court decisions, new or updated conservation agreements and recovery plans, and new scientific findings have all highlighted that the current plans are outdated and need to be revised.

To respond to these challenges the Nez Perce-Clearwater is currently in the process of revising the forest plans. The new, combined forest plan will incorporate changes in the natural environment, new scientific understandings and social trends, and will satisfy regulatory requirements.

The National Forest Management Act of 1976, Section 6 Part 5, modified the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 to require forest plans and states that “[Forest Plans] be revised from time to time when the secretary finds conditions in a unit have significantly changed, but at least every fifteen years.” Thus, the regulatory life of the plan is not to exceed fifteen years. However, based on experience nationwide, plans will be in effect until such time they are revised by a new plan, which may be longer than fifteen years between revisions. The first forest plans on the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests have been in effect since 1987 and will continue to be in effect until a Record of Decision is signed on a revised forest plan, estimated to be 34 years since the forest plans originated. As such, the life of the plan throughout this environmental impact statement will be used to mean the time from the signing of a Record of Decision on this plan through signing a Record of Decision on future forest plans. The timeframe is assumed to be 20 to 30 years, despite the regulatory definition of not to exceed fifteen years. When “the life of the plan” is used in plan components or analysis, it is assumed that the component or analysis will be based on implementation over 20 to 30 years.

The responsible official for the revised forest plan is the Forest Supervisor. After reviewing the results of the analysis evaluated in the draft environmental impact statement, the responsible official will issue a draft record of decision, in accordance with agency decision making procedures (40 CFR § 1505.2) that will:

- disclose the decision (identifying the selected alternative) and reasons for the decision;
- discuss how public comments and issues were considered in the decision; and
- discuss how all alternatives were considered in reaching the decision, specifying which one is the environmentally preferable alternative (defined in 36 CFR § 220.3).

The draft forest plan provides a draft set of integrated plan direction for managing the Nez Perce-Clearwater for the next 10 to 15 years. However, even after approval of the plan, project level environmental analysis will still need to be completed for specific proposals to implement the direction in the forest plan.

Forest plans do not make budget decisions. Should Congress emphasize specific programs by appropriation, a redistribution of priorities would follow, regardless of the alternative implemented.

## 1.9 Issues

The Nez Perce-Clearwater identified the following significant issues during scoping based on the scoping document titled “Proposed Action.”

### Recommended Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers

**Issue 1:** The Proposed Action may not adequately apportion recommended wilderness areas across the Nez Perce-Clearwater. The proposed action may not adequately apportion suitable Wild and Scenic River segments across the Nez Perce-Clearwater.

### Recreation and Access Management

**Issue 2:** The proposed action may not adequately apportion motorized and non-motorized recreation access opportunities in the front country (Management Area 3) and backcountry (Management Area 2) areas across the Nez Perce-Clearwater.

### Forest Vegetation

**Issue 3:** Desired conditions for forest vegetation should be met through natural processes or through active management. The rate of progress towards the desired conditions should occur at a faster or slower pace. Desired conditions should include higher compositions of early seral species and increased or decreased patch sizes and increased or decreased tree densities to meet ecological habitat needs of wildlife species, maintain resiliency of forest vegetation communities, and meet the social needs of forest users at a local, regional, and national scale.

### Timber

**Issue 4:** The Potential Timber Sale Quantity should be increased or decreased to better provide for a balance of ecological sustainability, economic, and social resiliency. The maximum regeneration harvest unit size should be increased or decreased.

Significant issues represent unresolved conflict among available resources. Numerous other items that may not have been sufficient in the proposed action were identified through public comment. Those items helped guide the Nez Perce-Clearwater as the forest plan revision team continued to develop plan components.

## 1.10 Alternatives

Four action alternatives were developed based on internal and external input, including collaboration on alternative development. All alternatives analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement met a minimum bar of being ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable per the 2012 planning rule. Furthermore, each alternative contributes to rural prosperity and other Department of Agriculture Strategic Goals.

Alternative themes and the thought process behind their development are described below:

### Alternative W

Resources and land allocation on the Nez Perce-Clearwater are not mutually exclusive. It may be possible to have high levels of timber harvest; sustain rural economies; recover fish and wildlife species listed within the Endangered Species Act; provide clean air and clean water; and provide habitat for viable populations of wildlife species all at the same time. For instance, areas evaluated for recommended wilderness are independent from most areas that provide for timber harvest due to the Idaho Roadless Rule. As such, it is possible to recommend all or nearly all Idaho Roadless Rule areas for recommended wilderness and have a very high level of timber outputs.

Alternative W is a “have it most” alternative. The intent is to couple items that may otherwise be viewed as being mutually exclusive. This alternative has higher levels of recommended wilderness coupled with a higher timber output and a faster rate of movement towards forest vegetation desired conditions. Forest vegetation desired conditions would be minimally met within thirty years. Areas not selected as recommended wilderness allow for motorized use, including within Idaho Roadless Rule areas. Wild and Scenic Rivers found suitable stem from a collaborative approach that looks at rivers outside the wilderness.

### Alternative X

Alternative X responds to a number of state and local plans, which call for few or no areas of recommended wilderness fewer or no suitable wild and scenic rivers and higher timber outputs. In this alternative zero areas are recommended as wilderness. The Comprehensive Water Plan is used as a surrogate to continue to protect key tributaries to the North and South Fork Clearwater Rivers while not pursuing Wild and Scenic River Suitable status on any river. Forest vegetation would be within the lower bound of the desired conditions within twenty years. Alternative X has the highest timber output, including a departure from the Sustained Yield Limit (SYL) for a period of two decades at 241-261 million board feet annually.

### Alternative Y

Alternative Y provides for intermediate level of recommended wilderness and moves towards forest vegetative desired conditions in fifty years. Historic snowmobiling areas in the Great Burn are removed from consideration as recommended wilderness resulting in a boundary change, but within the areas moving forward as recommended wilderness we do not authorize any uses that may preclude designation as wilderness in the future. This alternative also looks at the major rivers not designated in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River system. The major rivers not designated include the North Fork Clearwater and South Fork Clearwater.

### Alternative Z

Alternative Z responds to requests to have an alternative in which natural processes dominate over anthropogenic influence. In this alternative a proposal for recommended wilderness that was brought forward by a group of national and state wilderness advocacy groups was mostly carried forward. Additionally, rivers were viewed as part of a larger system and major tributaries to the Nez Perce-Clearwater's largest rivers will be analyzed as being suitable for inclusion in the wild and scenic rivers system. Areas in Idaho Roadless Rule Areas will not be opened up for additional motorized use and most current motorized use would not be impacted. Reliance on natural process would warrant a slower movement towards forest vegetation desired conditions within an anticipated one-hundred-years or longer. Timber outputs would also be lower and near a lower threshold needed to provide for economic sustainability and sustain rural economies. Additional plan components related to snag guidelines, live tree retention, fisher habitat, and elk security are included that limit uncertainty regarding how and where these features will be located on the landscape.

Management Areas by Alternative

Table 1. Acres within each management area by alternative.

Management Area	No Action Alt.*	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z
1(a)- Designated Wilderness	1,139,059	1,139,059	1,139,059	1,139,059	1,139,059
1(b)- Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers	57,891	57,891	57,891	57,891	57,891
1(c) National Historic Landmark	55,760	55,760	55,760	55,760	55,760
<b>MA1 subtotal</b>	<b>1,231,638</b>	<b>1,231,638</b>	<b>1,231,638</b>	<b>1,231,638</b>	<b>1,231,638</b>
2(a) Idaho Roadless Areas	1,481,637	1,481,637	1,481,637	1,481,637	1,481,637
2(b) Recommended Wilderness	197,693	856,932	0	309,332	569,755
2(c) Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers	155,477	79,464	0	110,252	166,176
2(d) Gospel-Hump- MA2	30,164	28,498	28,498	30,164	28,498
2(e) Designated RNA	31,480	31,480	31,480	31,480	31,480
2(f) Proposed RNA	965	965	965	965	965
<b>MA2 subtotal</b>	<b>1,489,736</b>	<b>1,468,512</b>	<b>1,463,088</b>	<b>1,487,467</b>	<b>1,472,541</b>
<b>MA3 subtotal</b>	<b>1,217,682</b>	<b>1,238,906</b>	<b>1,244,330</b>	<b>1,219,951</b>	<b>1,234,878</b>
<b>Forest Acreage**</b>	<b>4,074,832</b>	<b>4,074,832</b>	<b>4,074,832</b>	<b>4,074,832</b>	<b>4,074,832</b>

\* No Action Alternative numbers are estimates to compare against alternatives. The 1987 Forest Plans had dozens of management areas.

\*\* Forest Acreage numbers represent the administrative Nez Perce-Clearwater boundary.



Summary of Alternatives

Table 2. Overview of Alternatives.

Resource Topic	No Action	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z
<b>Recommended Wilderness</b>	Hoodoo, Mallard-Larkins, Portions of: North Fork Spruce-White Sands and Sneakfoot Meadows	Bighorn-Weitas, Hoodoo, North Lochsa Slope, Mallard-Larkins, East Meadow Creek, Moose Mountain, Rapid River, North Fork Spruce-White Sands, Sneakfoot Meadows, Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork	None	East Meadow Creek; Hoodoo with Boundary change to create GA for snowmobiling; Mallard Larkins; Rapid River	East Meadow Creek, West Meadow Creek, Hoodoo, Mallard-Larkins, Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork; North Fork Spruce-White Sands, Rapid River, Rawhide, Sneakfoot Meadows, Pot Mountain.
<b>Non-conforming uses</b>	No snowmobiling, no motorized travel, no mechanized, chainsaws ok	No non-conforming that would likely preclude designation	N/A	No non-conforming would likely preclude designation	Winter motorized allowed; mechanized transport allowed
<b>Wild and Scenic Suitable Rivers</b>	<b>0 suitable, 29 Eligible:</b> Bargamin Creek; Bear Creek Complex (Bear, Brushy Fork, Cub, Paradis, Wahoo); Cayuse Creek; Fish Creek; Hungry Creek; Johns Creek; Kelly Creek; Lake Creek; Little North Fork Clearwater River; Meadow Creek (Selway); Moose Creek Complex (East Fork Moose, Moose, North Fork Moose, West Moose Creek, Rhoda); North Fork Clearwater River; Running Creek; Salmon River; Slate Creek; South Fork Clearwater River; Three Links Creek Complex (Three Links, West Fork Three Links); West Fork Gedney Creek; White Bird Creek; White Sand Creek (renamed Colt Killed Creek)	Cayuse Creek, Fish Creek, Hungry Creek, Johns Creek, Kelly Creek, Little North Fork, Meadow Creek, Middle Fork Kelly, North Fork Kelly, Salmon River, South Fork Kelly, Weitas Creek ( <b>12</b> )	<b>0 Suitable</b> - manage 21 rivers in the North Fork and South Fork Clearwater Basins consistent with the Idaho Department of Water Resources <b>State of Idaho Rivers Program</b> direction	Cayuse Creek, Fish Creek, Hungry Creek, Johns Creek, Kelly Creek, Little North Fork, Meadow Creek, Middle Fork Kelly Creek, North Fork Clearwater River, North Fork Kelly Creek, Salmon River, South Fork Clearwater River, South Fork Kelly Creek, Weitas Creek ( <b>14</b> )	<b>Systems Approach:</b> Bargamin Creek, Bear Creek, Big Sand Creek, Bostonian Creek, Boundary Creek, Brushy Fork Creek, Buck Lake Creek, Caledonia Creek, Colt Killed Creek, Crooked Fork Creek, Cub Creek, East Fork Meadow Creek, East Fork Moose Creek, Fish Creek, Graves Creek, Hungry Creek, Johns Creek, Kelly Creek, Little North Fork Clearwater River, Meadow Creek, Middle Fork Kelly Creek, Moose Creek, North Fork Kelly Creek, North Fork Moose Creek, North Fork Storm Creek, Rhoda Creek, Running Creek, Sabe Creek, Salmon River, Silver Creek, South Fork Kelly Creek, South Fork Storm Creek, Storm Creek, Upper Lochsa River, Weitas Creek, West Moose Creek, Wounded Doe Creek ( <b>37</b> )
<b>Access</b>	Clearwater travel plan; site specific closure orders in some areas on the Nez Perce Forest (no travel plan in place)	All Backcountry Restoration IRA's motorized ROS in summer; most areas open in winter	More summer motorized access, Motorized loop opportunities expanded in MA2	Motorized loop opportunities expanded in MA2	Similar to existing condition in summer, increased winter motorized
<b>Timber Output</b> Restoration potential timber sale quantity	50-60 mmbf	221-241 mmbf	241-261 mmbf (DEPARTURE)	120-140 mmbf	60-80 mmbf
<b>Active Restoration Acres annually</b>	3,800 acres	12,600 acres	14,000 acres	7,500 acres	3,700 acres
<b>Max Regen Unit Size</b>	40 acres	375 acres	375 acres	375 acres	375 acres
<b>Rx Natural Fire Acres annually</b>	1,650	37,500 acres	37,500 acres	37,500 acres	37,500 acres


**Table 3. Summary of Proposed Activities Allowed in Recommended Wilderness.**

Proposed Activities in Recommended Wilderness Areas	No Action	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z
	Use Allowed in Recommended Wilderness (Yes/No)				
Motorized Travel	No	No	N/A	No	Yes-Winter Motorized
Mechanized Travel	No	No	N/A	No	Yes
Motorized and mechanized tools for public use	No	Hand-Held Motorized (e.g. Chainsaws) allowed	N/A	No	Yes
Motorized and mechanized tools for administrative use	Yes	Hand-Held Motorized (e.g. Chainsaws) allowed	N/A	No	Yes
Aircraft landing for recreational use	No	No	N/A	No	Yes
Aircraft landing for administrative use	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes

### 1.11 Summary of Ecologic, Social and Economic Impacts

Economic Sustainability:

**Table 4. Relative contributions to social and economic sustainability by alternative.**

Key Social Benefit from the Nez Perce-Clearwater	Relative Contributions				
					
	Greatest				Smallest
Income – payments in lieu of taxes, secure rural schools, labor income in various industries: recreation, timber, and grazing	X	W	Y	Z	NA
Jobs – including induced jobs such as recreation, timber, and grazing	X	W	Y	Z	NA

Social Sustainability:

**Table 5. Summary of consequences to social benefits by alternative**

Relative Contribution to Social Sustainability Scale: highest (5) to lowest (1)					
Measurement Indicator	No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z
Clean water	2	4	5	3	2
Clean air	4	1	5	3	2
Wood products	1	4	5	3	2
Forage	1	4	5	3	2
Hunting/wildlife	Varies by species				
<i>Elk, Mule Deer, Moose, Wolf, Cougar, Grouse, Turkey, Weasel, Badger, some birds</i>	2	4	5	3	2
<i>bighorn sheep, snowshoe hare, chukar, river otter, red fox, mink, skunk, raccoon, and aquatic birds</i>	5	5	5	5	5
<i>American Beaver</i>	4	4	4	4	4
<i>Forest birds</i>	5	3	2	4	5
<i>Mountain Goat</i>	3	5	1	3	2
<i>Black Bear</i>	4	3	3	5	4
<i>American Marten</i>	4	4	2	3	4
<i>Bobcat</i>	3	4	5	3	3
Fish	2	4	5	3	2
Cultural values (inspiration and health)	5	3	2	4	4
Cultural values (historic resources)	4	4	2	3	5
Cultural values (mining)	4	1	5	3	2
Aesthetics (scenery)	2	5	1	3	3
Recreation	Vary by type of preferred recreation opportunity				
<i>Motorized recreation</i>	1	3	5	3	3
<i>Mechanized recreation (e.g. mountain bikes)</i>	3	1	5	2	3
<i>Quiet recreation (i.e. non-motorized or mechanized)</i>	5	3	2	4	4
Flood control	2	4	5	3	2
Soil stabilization and landslide protection	2	4	5	3	2

Ecologic Sustainability:

The revised forest plan provides direction to restore, establish, and maintain functioning ecosystems that would have greater adaptive capacity to withstand stressors and recover from disturbances, especially changing and uncertain environmental conditions and extreme weather events.

The revised forest plan provides ecological conditions to sustain ecosystems that maintain the diversity of plant, fish, and animal communities and the persistence of native species in the plan area.

The revised forest plan takes into account the effects of a changing climate and provides climate change adaptation strategies.

The revised forest plan provides for ecological integrity, ecosystem services, and multiple uses in an integrated manner.

## 1.12 Decision to be Made

Based upon the effects of the alternatives, the responsible official will decide the following:

1. Forestwide components to provide for integrated social, economic, and ecological sustainability, and ecosystem integrity and diversity, while providing for ecosystem services and multiple uses. Components must be within Forest Service authority and consistent with the inherent capability of the plan area (36 CFR 219.7 and CFR 219.8–219.10).
2. Recommendations to Congress, if any, for lands recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and/or rivers suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (36 CFR 219.7(2)(v) and (vi)).
3. Identification or recommendation, if any, of other designated areas (36 CFR 219.7 (c)(2)(vii)).
4. Identification of suitability of areas for the appropriate integration of resource management and uses, including lands suited and not suited for timber production (36 CFR 219.7(c)(2)(vii) and 219.11).
5. Identification of the maximum quantity of timber that may be removed from the plan area (36 CFR 219.7 and 219.11 (d)(6)).
6. Identification of geographic or management area specific components (36 CFR 219.7 (c)(3)(d)).
7. Identification of watersheds that are a priority for maintenance or restoration (36 CFR 219.7 (c)(3)(e)(3)(f)).
8. Plan monitoring program (36 CFR 219.7 (c)(2)(x) and 219.12).

Following the release of the draft environmental impact statement, a formal 90-day comment period will commence. Public meetings will be held in Kamiah, Grangeville, Orofino, Elk City, Lowell, Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Moscow, Riggins, McCall, Boise, and Lapwai in Idaho and Superior/St. Regis, Missoula, and Hamilton in Montana. The updated meeting schedule is posted on the website at:

<http://bit.ly/NezClearFPR>.