



File Code: 1920

Date: August 18, 2003

Dear Reader:

On behalf of the Forest Supervisors who manage the Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness (FC–RONRW), I am happy to forward the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the FC–RONRW Management Plan to you. The FEIS provides the basis for revising the management plan that will provide programmatic direction for day-to-day management decisions in the 2.4 million acre Wilderness. This analysis officially started with a Notice of Intent in December 1994. Since that time we have published a Draft EIS (DEIS) in January 1998, and a Supplemental Draft EIS (SDEIS) in September 1999.

As the FEIS was being prepared we reviewed the decisions to be made that rely on this analysis. Those decisions that are programmatic in nature have been identified and will be reflected in the revised management plan. Some decisions that were identified in the DEIS or SDEIS involve site-specific actions that are not appropriately addressed in the management plan revision. Still other decisions are administrative in nature, or are decided under different authorities and will not be made in conjunction with this EIS.

Another result of our review is that the alternatives previously presented in the DEIS and SDEIS have been restructured to better integrate management actions being studied. Components of the restructured alternatives were presented in the DEIS or SDEIS but are formatted differently in the Final EIS.

We would like your comments on the analysis documented in the FEIS. Specifically, we want your thoughts about factors we should consider before we make our decision. You may request more information or provide comment by contacting Ken Wotring, FC–RONR Wilderness Coordinator at the Forest Supervisor's Office, Salmon-Challis National Forest, 50 Highway 93 South, Salmon, Idaho 83467, by phone at (208) 756-5131, or by email at comments-intermtn-salmon-challis@fs.fed.us. Please state that your comments are for the FC–RONR Wilderness Management Plan FEIS. Your comments must be received no later than October 27, 2003 to be helpful to us in making our decisions.

The Record of Decision (ROD) and Management Plan are expected to be available in early December.

Sincerely,

/s/Stephen J. Solem
STEPHEN J. SOLEM
Acting Forest Supervisor

