

**Scoping for  
Proposed Amendments to Update Grazing Management Direction and Provide for a  
MIS Restoration Plan**

Salmon-Challis National Forest  
April 2008

The Forest Service is soliciting public comments on its proposal to amend the Salmon and Challis Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs) for the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

**Purpose and Need**

The LRMPs for the Salmon and Challis National Forests were completed in 1989 and 1988 respectively. Though these LRMPs provide general management direction for rangeland livestock grazing and wildlife and fish habitats, advances have been made in understanding of rangeland science as well as wildlife and fish habitat requirements. Better information is now available about desired conditions, indicators that can be monitored to assess conditions, and approaches to adjust grazing in order to achieve desired conditions. Where conditions are less than satisfactory, measures are needed to restore these lands. The LRMPs need to be updated and clarified based on this better information.

An interdisciplinary team has developed strategies for managing livestock grazing on non-forested uplands, stream riparian areas, and springs, seeps and wetlands to maintain or improve conditions for watershed, wildlife habitat, and sustainable grazing. The proposed LRMP amendments would incorporate application of these strategies as management direction to guide development of more specific plans (allotment management plans) that direct the management of permitted livestock grazing within particular grazing areas.

It is expected that incorporating these strategies by amendment into the Forest Plans will result in numerous benefits. These include providing updated grazing management direction, emphasizing achieving desired conditions consistent with legal and other requirements through adaptive management.

**Proposed Action**

The proposed action is to amend each of the LRMPs to include the following types of management direction and requirements:

**Goal** - Manage livestock grazing in such a manner that resource conditions are maintained if in desired condition, and restored if in less than desired condition

**Objective 1** - Assess MIS fish and wildlife habitat at the project initiation scale. Those habitats identified to be in less than satisfactory condition due to livestock grazing activities will be managed to restore habitats to a satisfactory condition.

**Objective 2** - Construct and maintain range structural improvements to a standard that does not degrade resource conditions to a less than satisfactory condition.

**Guideline 1** - Utilize the most current versions of the following Strategies for allotment planning and administration of grazing:

- *Strategy: Managing Non-Forested Upland Plant Communities to Obtain Desired Conditions for Rangeland Health and to Sustain Multiple Uses – Salmon-Challis National Forest*
- *A Strategy for Managing Livestock Grazing Within Stream Riparian Communities on the Salmon-Challis National Forest*
- *A Strategy for Managing Springs, Seeps, and Wetlands (Lentic Systems) on the Salmon-Challis National Forest.*

**Guideline 2** - Utilize the best available science regarding MIS habitat requirements in conjunction with strategies to restore or maintain MIS habitat conditions in a satisfactory condition.

### **Strategy Information**

The strategies listed in Guideline 1 include:

- Selected indicators of range upland and riparian health.
- Specific desired condition values for indicators.
- Accepted methods of measuring the indicators.
- Monitoring requirements for determining resource condition and trend and for assessing effectiveness of grazing management.
- Instructions for adaptive management

The Strategies themselves are to be evaluated periodically and adjusted with best available science.

### **Application of Planning Regulations**

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976 implementing regulations (36 CFR 219.14(2), 2008) allow responsible officials to use the provisions of the 1982 rule to prepare plan amendments. The 1982 rule sets forth a process for developing, adopting, and revising land and resource management plans for the National Forest System. The Forest Supervisor may amend the forest plan following appropriate public notification and completion of NEPA procedures.

### **Decision Framework**

Based on the environmental analysis, the Forest Supervisor will decide whether or not to amend the Salmon and the Challis National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans to add updated management direction and requirements for grazing management, and if so, what the nature and content of that direction should be.

### **Public Input Needed**

Comments are specifically requested on the proposed action and potential effects from the proposed action. Comments on this proposal will be most helpful if they are received by May 22, 2008. However, comments are welcome throughout the planning process. Issues identified outside of the scope of this proposal will not be addressed at this level of planning.

For more information regarding this proposal, please contact Karryl Krieger, Project Team Leader, at the Forest Service Supervisor's Office, Salmon-Challis National Forest, 1206 S. Challis St., Salmon, ID 83467, by phone at (208) 756-5102, or by email at [comments-intermtn-salmon-challis@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-salmon-challis@fs.fed.us). Please state that your comments are for the Forest Plans amendment scoping.