

Date submitted (UTC-11): 12/3/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: Wayne

Last name: Butts

Organization: Custer County Commissioners

Title: Chairman

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

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CUSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PO BOX 385

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November 27, 2018

Mr. Charles A. Mark, Forest Supervisor Salmon-Challis National Forest

1206 Challis Street

Salmon, Idaho 83467

Dear Supervisor Mark,

The Custer County Commissioner are requesting a Forest Plan Revision update on the following events of which we as coordinators in the process have not been informed.

1. The Forest Service seeking input on evaluating 1,320,110.8 acres of Wilderness within the SCNF in 16 separate areas with no public notification in a series of workshops this month is disconcerting to us as elected officials and the citizens of Custer County.[middot] w hat criteria were utilized to establish these 16 areas? Who developed the criteria, and what will occur as part of the evaluation process? We believe you are required to assess future and foreseeable actions, for example, the BLM will be conducting their Plan Revisions and how many acres of wilderness being evaluated using your criteria will be considered?

2. The results of the recent Wild and Scenic River field tours within both counties and your process to detennine eligibility on the 69 segments resulting in the potential for 200,000 acres plus of additional management restrictions?

3. The Draft Assessment list of 136 Species of Concern. It is our understanding you have forwarded your recommendations of this list to the Regional Forester for her approval. This is a decision we were unaware of and have not had the opportunity to comment on nor has the general public. We also understand you will be developing standards and guidelines and management direction for these species which will guide plan development. This appears to be a component providing direction without our or the publics' input.

As Commissioners we are concerned regarding how the aforementioned items will impact firefighting abilities on the SCNF and the ability to perform fuel reduction activities on National Forest Lands and all current activities occurring on National Forest Lands.

We are also requesting you conduct public meetings, advertised in the Challis Messenger, Recorder Herald and Arco Advertiser and the radio on the Wilderness Evaluation Process; areas to be evaluated and future and foreseeable areas from the other agencies forthcoming plans. Two of our Commissioners attended the workshop in Challis after receiving workshop material from citizens in Lemhi County. The short time for the topics to comment and the limited number of individuals able to attend due to lack of notification did not permit the citizens of Custer County an opportunity to comment.

We look forward to hearing from you on the aforementioned and obviously a plan to ensure this lack of notification on these critical issues to the public entities under formal agreement and the general public does not occur in the future.

Sincerely,

Wayne F. Butts, Chairman

CC:

Alan Rawley, Deputy Administrator  
Nora Rasure, Regional Forester Dist. 4  
Dave Rosenkrance,  
Senator Mike Crapo  
Senator James Risch  
Congressman Raul Labrador  
Congressman Mike Simpson