



December 17, 1992

Mr. David Jolly  
Regional Forester  
Region 1, USDA Forest Service  
Federal Building  
Box 7669  
Missoula, MT 59807

Dear Mr. Jolly:

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society (Chapter) is writing in regards to the report, produced by the Forest Service, entitled "A Management Strategy (Strategy) for the Clearwater National Forest (CNF)". The Chapter is concerned and interested in the positive resolution of current and emerging issues in the CNF. We strongly endorse the development of a public involvement mechanism that effectively tells the "Clearwater Story" as proposed in the Strategy. We are also interested in the specific CNF actions that may result from the proposed Strategy.

Of particular concern to the Chapter are such issues as threatened and endangered species, including the Rocky Mountain gray wolf, grizzly bear, and chinook salmon, and sensitive species, for example, harlequin duck, fisher, and cutthroat trout. We are also concerned with the issues associated with riparian and old-growth conditions and inventories, watershed and aquatic habitat conditions, maintenance of water quality standards, and the commitment of the CNF to monitoring and evaluation of fish, wildlife, and plant resources. It appears that the Strategy places these and other resource issues subordinate to the timber issue. In this regard, the Chapter has the following specific questions.

- o Can the CNF comply with the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), the standards and guides of the CNF Forest Plan (Plan), other environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act, and still continue to meet assigned timber harvest targets?
- o If the CNF determines that compliance with NFMA, other environmental laws, and the Plan, cannot be met while accomplishing the assigned timber harvest targets, what type of adjustments will be made in the Plan or the Allowable Sale Quantity?

o How will the Strategy achieve consistency with the Plan and at the same time incorporate changed resource conditions and public expectations?

o How will the process of analysis and monitoring effect implementation schedules currently indicated in the Plan? The Chapter endorses the use of annual monitoring and evaluation reports to build commitment to the Plan and to determine which of the Plan directions need further study. We presume the emerging issues discussed above will require substantial survey, analysis, and monitoring.

As you may know, the Wildlife Society is comprised of natural resource professionals. These professionals are often placed in difficult positions, particularly those which represent non-commodity resources, and are faced with difficult challenges to accomplish all the mandates of their positions. The Society 's Code of Ethics states that we will "Support fair and uniform standards of employment and treatment of those professionally engaged in the practice of wildlife management". In this regard, Dan Davis, Win Green, and the other resource professionals at the CNF, have our support through the resolution of the issues associated with the Strategy. The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society is keenly interested in the manner by which resource professionals are treated throughout the resolution process now occurring on the CNF.

To emphasize our concern for positive treatment of resource professionals, the Chapter requests that the CNF address the following questions regarding performance and accountability.

o How will the CNF specifically work with the resource specialists cited in the Strategy to improve the overall function of the Interdisciplinary team?

o How will the CNF work to positively resolve conflicts that arise between specialists that represent natural resources when analyzing project proposals?

o How will the CNF determine whether or not the resource specialists are acting in good faith to promote team work and consensus while remaining consistent with the Plan and environmental laws?

The Chapter looks forward to a response to our specific questions as part of the proposed new public involvement strategy.

Sincerely,

Paul Moroz  
President  
2081 NW 8th street  
Meridian, Idaho 83642