Salmon-Challis National Forest Wilderness Process





INVENTORY

This phase is broad and inclusive. During inventory, staff apply the size, road and other improvement criteria to the entire administrative boundary of the forest. The result is a set of inventory areas that meet this criteria. These areas move on to the next phase. The public helps during this phase by providing on-the-ground

knowledge, improvement and road data, and other useful information.

We accepted public feedback on this phase of the process at public meetings in February, April and November 2017. We also accepted feedback during informal online comment periods from May 2017 through July 2018.



EVALUATION

The criteria applied during this phase are used to determine if the areas identified in the inventory phase have the wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act. Since the policy allows for groupings and variance in scope of the evaluation, we used road density to consolidate areas into two distinct groupings.

The public helps during this phase by providing feedback on wilderness characteristics or other management considerations about the inventory areas that may be considered when determining what areas will be considered in analysis

Public feedback will be accepted at workshops and meetings and through online comment tools and will be most helpful if received by January 31, 2019.



ANALYSIS

In the analysis phase, Salmon-Challis specialists will analyze the impacts of recommending or not recommending some, none, or all of the evaluated areas. We will develop a range of alternatives for consideration.

Public involvement during the analysis phase will focus on developing alternatives and determining which, if any, areas to include for further analysis. Feedback for this phase will be accepted at public meetings and through a formal online comment period.



RECOMMENDATION

In this final phase, the forest supervisor issues a decision on whether or not to recommend specific areas for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This decision is based on the analysis disclosed in the environmental impact statement and public input.

The decision is reviewed by several officials in the Department of Agriculture before it is sent forward for further consideration.

