



File Code: 1920/1500

Date: OCT 31 2014

Jack A. Buell
Chairman, Benewah County Commissioners
701 West College Avenue
St. Maries, ID 83861

Dear Commissioners Buell, McCall, and Lampert:

Thank you for your letter of October 27, 2014. I am sorry you will not be able to meet with me in November. However, I am glad that you have time for use to discuss the Idaho Panhandle Forests' Plan at your regularly scheduled Board meeting on December 22, 2014, at 10:00 AM.

I take issue with the statement in your letter that the Forest Service has chosen not to engage with local governments. Enclosed is a 6-page spreadsheet displaying the numerous times the Forest Service has engaged with the northern Idaho counties. Keep in mind this is not an exhaustive list because it does not include the working group participation by the counties when we first started the revision process, RAC meetings, etc.

You also state in your letter "it is hard to find a path to move forward at this point." Clearly the path to move forward is complete this process by signing the Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Idaho Panhandle Forest Plan once the changes that Reviewing Officer Gregory C. Smith required in his letter of September 8, 2014, are completed. I expect these will be done soon, and I expect to sign the Forest Plan in early January.

Therefore, it is important that we meet at your next Board meeting and that sufficient time is available at the meeting to discuss your concerns. Please contact my administrative assistant, Carol Moore (406 329-3315), if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

FAYE L. KRUEGER
Regional Forester

Enclosure

RECEIVED
2014 NOV 5 PM 12 27
BENEWAH COUNTY
CLERK AND RECORDER

NO ENCLOSURES
included

