

Decision Memo

Granite Large Wood Replenishment Project

USDA Forest Service
Priest Lake Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Bonner County, Idaho

Introduction

The Granite Large Wood Replenishment Project includes the North and South Forks of Granite Creek within the State of Washington on the Priest Lake Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The project area includes all or portions of T37N, R45E, Sections 2,11,13,23, 24 and 26 Willamette Meridian approximately five air miles northwest of Nordman, ID. The primary access routes to the project area include Forest System Roads (FSR) 302 and 311. All of the project area is located within the Kalispell-Granite Bear Management Unit.

The Granite Large Wood Replenishment Project is a cooperative project between the Forest Service, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SFRB), United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Priest Community Forest Connection (PCFC) and Sikes fund. Funding for this project would largely be provided by grant awarded through the SFRB, USFWS and the Sikes Funds. The WDFW is the primary applicant for the SRFB and USFWS grants and is providing technical assistance. Through a cooperative financial agreement between the WDFW, the Forest Service, and the PCFC, funds from the grants were given to the Forest Service to: a) plan the project, b) assess the environmental effects of the project; c) implement the project; and d) monitor the effectiveness of the project. The majority of the funds will be used to fund staff hired by the PCFC to install the inchannel structures.

Background

In 2006, the Priest Lake Ranger District partnered with the Kalispel Tribe and received a grant from the SRFB to determine the existing condition of Granite Creek in regards to fish and water resources. Funding from the grant paid for a watershed assessment of the entire Granite Creek drainage. The Watershed Professionals Network (WPN) completed the assessment and summarized their findings and recommendations in a report titled the Granite Watershed Assessment [(GWA) WPN 2009]. The assessment reviewed the channels and road systems of the entire Granite Creek watershed, including both the States of Idaho and Washington.

The assessment (WPN 2009) found three mains areas of concern:

- 1) hydrologically-connected road segments are directly contributing sediment to streams via ditches and pipes;

- 2) stream-adjacent roads are contributing sediment to streams via surface erosion; and,
- 3) amount and size of large inchannel wood is insufficient in many reaches to support critical spawning and rearing habitat for native salmonids, including federally-listed bull trout.

A team of local aquatic specialists from the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and Kalispel Tribe reviewed the document and further refined and prioritized the recommendations for both Idaho and Washington. Specific actions and areas (i.e., reaches) were prioritized for treatment based on maximizing sediment reduction and most cost-effectively replenishing large wood. After extensive review of the GWA, the interagency team agreed that the most effective aquatic restoration opportunity at this time would be to address the lack of large wood in the larger stream channels.

The Granite Watershed Assessment [(GWA) WPN 2009] found that many reaches within the Granite Creek watershed were not meeting the instream targets for large wood (PIBO data). Target numbers, based on reference condition, are 8.1 pieces per 100 m, with each piece having a diameter ≥ 20 DBH (75th percentile target) based on Pacific InFish Biological Opinion (PIBO) data. The GWA found that the amount of large wood within the streams of the watershed is insufficient in many reaches to support critical spawning and rearing habitat for native salmonids, including federally-listed bull trout. After reviewing the Assessment and supporting documents and maps, priority reaches were identified. Several other reaches were deficient in large wood, but restoration was not as high of a priority due to fish use, habitat quality, etc.

In the larger assessment, the GWA also completed a thorough inventory of the riparian areas. The researchers found that in the reaches targeted for restoration, there is an adequate supply of large-diameter trees available in the riparian area to replenish the large woody component through active management. While it is recognized that over time, there will be natural recruitment of large wood debris to these streams, there is a concern as to how long that might take. The Assessment suggested that it could take until 2058 to replenish large wood through passive/natural recruitment. The Assessment recommended thinning whole trees in riparian areas to improve forest health and accelerate recruitment of large wood to the stream. Waiting until 2058 for natural recruitment of large wood to these streams could significantly hinder the successful recovery of bull trout.

While the GWA report suggested that large wood be added to the mainstem of Granite Creek within the State of Idaho, the FS decided to limit wood introduction to just the State of Washington (e.g. North and South Fork of Granite Creek). At this time, the Forest Service will postpone introducing wood into the mainstem of Granite Creek until the area is further reviewed.

Project Collaboration:

In order to implement the project, the Forest Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and a local community group (Priest Community Forest Connection) collaborated on two grants and successfully received funding. The group received grant funding from the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) as well as the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Additionally, the USFS independently applied and received grant funding from the Sikes fund.

Project Design:

Over the summer of 2011, an interagency team of specialists worked together for two weeks to identify specific trees that could be used for this project. At each site, the team developed a plan for the wood with consideration as to how the wood would function in the channel (e.g. cover structures, pool enhancement, etc). The data gathered at each site included a GPS location, tree species, tree dimensions and structure design.

This project would install almost 400 pieces of large wood (6 to 40" in diameter) in eight reaches over almost eight miles in the North and South Forks of Granite Creek (see attached map). Structures will be composed of multiple or single logs with tops intact and when possible, root wads. All of the project trees will be taken from the adjacent riparian zone using selective and directional falling and placed in and along the channel using grip hoist/chainsaw wenchers and other hand tools. Passive anchoring will be used whenever possible; cabling will be avoided unless necessary to achieve and/or maintain desired results or protect downstream infrastructure or roads. Structures will be installed consistent with Washington's Aquatic Habitat Guidelines (WDFW et al. 2004). Site and channel characteristics were carefully considered to maximize functionality and protect downstream infrastructure and the adjacent Forest Service road (Rd 302).

Purpose & Need for Action

This **purpose and need** for the Granite Creek Large Wood Replenishment Project is to increase the amount of large wood in the fish bearing channels of North Fork Granite and South Fork Granite. Currently the size and number of large pieces of wood in the fish bearing channels do not meet the minimum criteria to fully support native salmonid recovery objectives. The secondary objective of this project is to improve riparian health with selective thinning of trees.

The District staff in conjunction with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife staff conducted field reviews and discussed the need for additional large wood to the North and South Forks of Granite Creek. Much of the historic and potential recruitment material for large woody debris was removed from the riparian zone through early logging and fires. The result is that the stream systems lack the large wood needed to provide channel structure and inchannel habitat. The two agencies agreed to add large woody complexes back into the streams.

This restoration project would improve fish habitat and remove barriers to aquatic organism passage in the North and South Forks of Granite Creek, treating a total of 4.2

miles in the North Fork and 3.6 miles in the South Fork Granite Creek, for a total of almost 8.0 miles. The Granite Creek drainage has historically supported adfluvial bull trout and currently has a population of both westslope cutthroat trout and brook trout. The mainstem of North Fork Granite still has a limited amount of bull trout spawning.

The proposed Granite Creek Large Wood Replenishment project would respond to the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) Forest Plans Goals and Objectives, specifically the following.

- Goal 8. “Provide for a diversity of plant and animal communities”.
- Goal 11: Manage the habitat of animal and plant species listed under the Endangered Species Act to provide for recovery as outlined in the species recovery or management plans. Manage habitat to maintain populations of identified sensitive species of animals and plants.
- Goal 13: Manage fisheries habitat to provide a carrying capacity that will allow an increase in the Forest’s trout population.
- Goal 18: Maintain high quality water to protect fisheries habitat, water based recreation, public water supplies and be within state water quality standards.
- Goal 19: Manage resource development to protect the integrity of the stream channel system.
- Goal 27: Provide opportunities for people to be involved in Forest management activities and supply information enabling visitors to better enjoy National Forest Land.

Forest Objectives that would be partially met with this proposal include the following: Cultural and Historic (Objective D), Wildlife (Objective G), Threatened and Endangered Species (Objective H), Riparian Areas (Objective I), Fisheries (Objective J), Water (Objective N) and Community Stability (Objective V).

Proposed Action

The following is a description of the actions proposed for this project.

Inchannel Structures: Forest Service and the WDFW plan to install inchannel structures to enhance fish habitat and overall channel stability in the North and South Forks of Granite Creek. Almost 70 of the sites will be specific structures that will be engineered using multiple logs. At another 146 sites, individual logs will be directly felled to passively replenish large wood to the streams. The engineered structures will be designed to remain fairly immobile and create fish habitat (covers, pools, complexity). The woody debris replenishment sites are those areas that are fairly stable, but lack

adequate amounts of large woody debris. In those select areas, the large woody debris will be placed in the channel, but the channel will be allowed to redistribute the pieces.

Design Features and Mitigations

The Proposed Action was designed to accomplish project objectives without adversely impacting resources in the Granite Large Wood Replenishment Project. The following are specific guidelines and/or mitigations that would be followed during implementation.

Features to Protect Aquatic Species (including Threatened and Endangered Species)

The following guidelines are from the Fisheries Biological Assessment submitted for this project, dated November 3, 2011.

- The project must meet Inland Native Fish Strategy Standards and guidelines by avoiding adverse impacts to native fish and habitats by minimizing erosion and sediment delivery to stream channels (RF-2) and ensuring that toxicants (i.e., contaminated groundwater) are not released into the RHCA (RA-3).
- In-stream timing restrictions for work in waters of the State of Washington are from July 1 through August 31.
- Prohibit storage of fuels and other toxicants within RHCAs. Prohibit refueling within RHCAs unless there are no other alternatives. Refueling sites with a RHCA must be approved by the Forest Service and have an approved spill containment plan.
- All equipment that comes in contact with Granite Creek must be cleaned using a 10% chlorine bleach solution, or 100% vinegar solution, immediately prior to entering Granite Creek the first time. Disinfecting should be done again at the beginning of each week, or any day if there is any chance that equipment has been in contact with water other than Granite Creek between work periods. Equipment should be soaked for at least 10 minutes in wash basins or other containment systems, then rinsed with separate freshwater prior to entering Granite Creek. Equipment should not be rinsed in Granite Creek. Any equipment that cannot physically be soaked in a bleach or vinegar solution, or that may become damaged by those solutions using spraying techniques, must then use water greater than 104 F. Contractors may be required to attend a short training session by the District Fisheries Biologist immediately prior to starting work. More information on disinfecting equipment may be found at:
http://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/documents/Aquatic_is_prevention.pdf
- If redds or mature and possibly migratory bull trout are found at any time within any of the reaches, work must stop immediately and the District Fisheries Biologist must be notified. A review of the area may be required to determine if and how work may continue. Work may only resume after approval by the Fisheries Biologist.
- Logs should not come in contact with loose or unconsolidated streambank material while moving them from their fallen location to the stream. The leading ends of logs should be partially suspended when moving logs over streambanks.

and dragging logs resulting in scarification of floodplain soils should be minimized whenever possible.

- A petroleum spill kit must be on site each day during the project. A refueling plan for any machinery must be provided by the contractor prior to project initiation and must include plans for refueling chainsaws if they remain above, or near the stream or its floodplain. Refueling of machinery is allowed on the road.
- The Fisheries Biologist must be consulted in the event there is a need to work in the stream outside of the approved work window.

Mitigations to Protect Soil and Water Resources

- All project related activities would occur in accordance with the Soil and Water Conservation Handbook (USDA Forest Service 1988; FSH 2509.22).
- No construction will take place during times of saturated soil moisture or when runoff from disturbances may reach the stream.
- Where soils are exposed during project implementation, the exposed soils will be seeded and mulched. Only native grass seed that is certified weed free will be applied. The sites will be mulched with one of the following: brush from the area, certified weed free straw or wood strand straw.
- No logs will be dragged through marshy wet areas adjacent to the stream.
- All fuels will be stored at least 100 feet from the edge of the water. A hazardous spill kit will be with the crew vehicle on every work day. In the event of a spill, the crew will respond immediately and notify the FS.
- All equipment will be disinfected with a chlorine-bleach solution prior to use in Granite Creek to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Mitigations to Protect Wildlife Habitat (including Threatened and Endangered Species):

The following required mitigations are from the Wildlife Biological Assessment submitted for this project, dated Feb. 14, 2012.

- Gray Wolf-There would be no project activities within one mile of an active den site from April 1 through June 30.
- Harlequin Duck - There would be no harlequin duck timing restrictions on the South Fork of Granite Creek. To limit the potential for disturbance to harlequin ducks from project activities on the North Fork of Granite Creek, at a minimum, no project activities would occur from May 1 through July 31, and for additional protection as late in August as possible, at sites NF2, NFS-M through NFS-W, NF6-F through NF6-U and NF7-C through NF7-L. If harlequin ducks are observed within a any stream reach with proposed activities before or during project implementation, ample time should be given to allow the ducks to move from the area before the felling of trees.
- Northern Goshawk - If an active goshawk nest is located in close proximity to proposed activities, a qualified wildlife biologist will evaluate the location of the nest tree with respect to its distance from existing disturbance (i.e. open roads),

distance from proposed activities, topography and the ambient noise levels (e.g. stream noise) to determine if project activities would need to be suspended until outside the nesting season to limit disturbance to a nesting goshawk pair. If it is determined that timing restrictions are warranted, project activities would be suspended from April 15 through August 15 to promote nesting success.

- The number of administrative trips allowed for this project during the summer season (June 16 through September 15) would be limited to 14 trips or less for the purpose of crew transport and site inspection. Per the 2011 Forest Plan Amendment for Motorized Access Management, there is a maximum of 23 trips allowed on restricted roads for administrative use purposes from June 16 through September 15 to limit disturbance to grizzly bears. Keeping the number of administrative use trips below 23 also allows for the road to continue to be calculated as restricted and not as an increase in OMRD for a given bear year since it would remain closed to the public and not have unlimited use.
- If any threatened, endangered or sensitive species were located during implementation of the proposed action, management activities would be altered, if necessary, so that proper protection measures could be taken.

Mitigations to Protect Botanical Resources

The following required mitigations are from the Botanical Assessment submitted for this project, dated 12/14/2011.

- All documented rare plant occurrences would be protected from project activities by site-specific buffers established by a qualified botanist.
- Any changes to the proposed action or identified trees that may occur during implementation would be reviewed by a qualified botanist, and rare plant surveys would be conducted as necessary prior to project implementation. Newly documented occurrences would be evaluated with specific protection measures implemented to protect population viability. Such measures could include the following:
 - Modifying activity areas to provide adequate buffers around documented occurrences, as determined by a qualified botanist and based on topography, extent of contiguous suitable habitat for documented occurrences and the type of treatment proposed; and/or
 - Modifying activity methods or equipment types to protect rare plants and their habitats.
- Ensure activities occur in the driest season possible to reduce the potential for severe ground disturbance (either August through first half of October OR when soils are frozen and/or covered by at least one foot of snow.)
- Try to limit potential for ground disturbance and adjacent riparian vegetation by: directionally-falling trees toward ultimate stream position to reduce the level of disturbance; using block/tackle systems to suspend trees and/or log pieces, as much as is feasible; etc.
- Follow all required "Weeds Mitigation Measures".
- Where project activities result in exposed, bare, mineral soil, permittee shall utilize

the most current, IPNF Revegetation Seed List (species list available from the NZ Botanist), with site-appropriate (native, moist site seed mix) recommendations, to revegetate these sites, during the appropriate season. If revegetation seeding will be augmented or replaced with use of native plantings, consult the NZ Botanist to determine availability and selection of site-appropriate, locally-adapted native stock.

Mitigations to Prevent Weed Infestations

The following required mitigations are from the Weed Report submitted for this project, dated 12/14/2011.

- Any bare soil resulting from project-related activities must be seeded as soon as possible, during the appropriate season, with the most current certified, weed-free, IPNF site-appropriate native seed mix for moist sites, to reduce chances of noxious weed infestation/spread. Request the most current seed mix list from the NZ Botanist. If desired, revegetation can be augmented by planting native plugs, as specified and arranged by the NZ Botanist.
- Any equipment (including hand equipment, such as saws, winches, cables, etc.), utilized as part of project activities, and transportation equipment must be cleaned prior to entry onto NFS lands. This cleaning must effectively eliminate the potential for transmittal of noxious weed seeds or plant parts; thereby reducing the chance of new noxious weed infestations into the area.
- Educate cooperators and project contractors about weed prevention techniques, including preventing spread of weeds on gear/clothing, how to clean equipment, etc.
- The NZ Botanist or District Weeds Technician/Coordinator should monitor the site the first two years after project completion to evaluate the weed status and determine whether herbicide treatments and/or additional mitigation measures are necessary.

Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

There are no reasonably foreseeable activities planned within the Granite Large Wood Replenishment project area. However, downstream in the State Idaho, the Lakeview Reeder Hazardous Fuels Reduction EIS is proposing to implement various fuels treatments and road treatments within the Kalispell/Granite Bear Management Unit.

The Decision

I have decided to implement the proposed action as summarized below and displayed on Figure 1. I find that it can be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement as described in Forest Service Handbook 1909.15. Within Chapter 30, where it states: *31.2-7. Modification or maintenance of stream or lake aquatic habitat improvement structures using native materials or normal practices.*

The action is consistent with Forest Plan direction and the court ordered interim direction for Travel Management (2001 Travel Plan as amended). Implementation of this project consists of:

- Installing inchannel large wood in the channels at 214 locations within the North and South Forks of Granite Creek over almost eight miles of stream. The intent of the project is to improve low quality fish habitat and improve the resiliency of the stream to respond to episodic disturbances like floods and fires. All structures will be constructed with logs using normal contract practices.

Criteria for my Decision

This Decision Memo documents the decision I have made for this project, based on the following criteria.

- the extent to which the proposed action addresses the purpose and need for action;
- how well the proposed action responds to environmental circumstance (Table 1) and concerns identified by the public, other agencies, and Forest Service resource specialists;
- consistency with the goals and findings of Forest policy and legal mandates
- effects of the proposed action in comparison to taking no action
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sent a letter of concurrence for this project dated on February 7, 2012. In their concurrence documentation, they stated that the activity “may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect grizzly bears, Canada lynx or bull trout”.

The following information listed in Table 1 support my decision and the criteria as listed above to document the process of development for the Decision Memo.

Table 1: Summary of Extraordinary Circumstances

Resource Condition	Applicability to the Project
<p>a. Federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species.</p>	<p>The proposed action <u>may affect but not likely to adversely affect</u> the grizzly bear because the activity is scheduled to occur when most grizzly bears are moving to higher elevations. Furthermore, there would be no reduction in core habitat or any net increase in open road density. (See Wildlife Biological Assessment /Evaluation in the project file).</p> <p>The proposed action will have <u>no effect</u> on the woodland caribou because the project is not within a designated management unit (see Wildlife Biological Assessment/Evaluation in the project file).</p> <p>The proposed action <u>may affect but not likely to adversely affect</u> the Canada lynx for the Granite Large Wood Replenishment</p>

Resource Condition	Applicability to the Project
<p>a. Federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species continued.</p>	<p>project area because the proportion of suitable habitat within the project area will not be substantially altered (see Wildlife Biological Assessment/Evaluation in the project file.)</p> <p>The proposed action <u>may affect but not likely to adversely affect</u> bull trout. (Fish Biological Assessment, project file).</p> <p>The proposed action <u>may affect but not likely to adversely affect</u> most sensitive species. When effects may occur to sensitive plant, fish, and wildlife species, they are minor in nature. They <u>may impact individuals or habitat, but will not be likely to contribute to a trend toward federal listing or result in reduction of viability to the population or species.</u> (see Wildlife, Fish, and Plant Biological Evaluation in the project file)</p> <p>The proposed action may <u>impact individuals or habitat, but will not likely contribute to a trend towards Federal listing or loss of viability to the population or species (sensitive species)</u> of westslope cutthroat trout. (Fish Biological Assessment, project file).</p>
<p>b. Floodplains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds</p>	<p>The project will not result in the loss of or otherwise affect wetlands or alter the current floodplain.</p> <p>The project will not affect any municipal water source (see hydrology report in the project file).</p>
<p>c. Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas.</p>	<p>The project is not located within wilderness, wilderness study or national recreation areas.</p>
<p>d. Inventoried Roadless Areas.</p>	<p>The project is not located within any Inventoried Roadless Areas.</p>
<p>e. Research natural areas.</p>	<p>The proposed action is not located within a research natural area.</p>
<p>f. American Indian and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites.</p>	<p>No known native American cultural resources will be affected. (Heritage specialist report)</p>
<p>g. Archaeological sites or historic properties.</p>	<p>The proposed action will not affect any cultural sites (see heritage report in the project file).</p>

The associated documents for making the above determinations are included in the project file located at the Priest Lake Ranger Station.

The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the project activities have been considered. The setting of this proposal is in a localized area, with implications only for the landscape and drainages in that area. Consideration of the proposed action is based on its impact on the ecosystem, local communities, and at the affected resource level. It does not have any large or lasting affect on society as a whole, the nation, or the state. Based on this consideration, it has been determined that there are no significant beneficial or adverse impacts on the physical, biological, or social portions of the human environment.

Forest Plan Monitoring

This project will be monitored before, during and after the implementation of this project. Before the project, photo points will be established at each of the channel structures, in each affected reach and at strategic locations where the wood could relocate itself. The monitoring will document implementation and effectiveness of the project designs and best management practices.

Subsequently, I have determined that according to FSH 1909.15 Chapter 30.3(2) no resource conditions are present that lead to a finding of extraordinary circumstances that might cause the action to have significant effects.

Findings and Consistency with Laws, Regulations, and Policy

Executive Orders

The proposed Granite Large Wood Replenishment project meets Executive Orders 11988 and 11990.

- The proposed project meets Executive Order 11988. The project would positively affect floodplain function and would not increase flood hazards.
- The proposed project meets Executive Order 11990. The project would enhance wetland form and function.

National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires analysis of projects to ensure the anticipated effects upon all resources within the project area are considered prior to project implementation (40 CFR 1502.16). The analysis for the Granite Large Wood Replenishment project followed the guidelines of NEPA as provided by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). The selected action for this project was found to meet conditions that allowed it to be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement because it fit category 31.2-7 described in Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 – 2008 –, July 24, 2008.

Forest Plan

The project was reviewed and found to be consistent with the Forest Plan. The actions comply fully with the goals of the Forest Plan and the Forest-wide standards and guidelines. The project was designed in conformance with Forest Service directives, Forest Plan Standards and incorporates appropriate Forest Plan guidelines for road treatment efforts.

Clean Water Act

The project design incorporates site-specific best management practices to better meet the goals and objectives of the Federal Clean Water Act.

Floodplains, wetlands, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, timber resources and transportation needs have all been considered and these resources will not be adversely impacted.

Clean Air Act

There are no anticipated effects to air quality.

National Historic Preservation Act

Surveys to locate heritage resources within the Granite Large Wood Replenishment Project have been completed. All known heritage resource sites would be protected under either alternative, as directed by the Cultural Resources Management Practices. Any future discovery of heritage resource sites would be inventoried and protected in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act if found to be of cultural significance.

Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898, issued in 1994, ordered federal agencies to identify and address the issue of environmental justice; i.e. adverse human health and environmental effects that disproportionately impact minority and low-income populations. Based on the composition of the affected communities and the cultural and economic factors, neither alternative would have an adverse effect to human health and safety or environmental effects to minority, low income, or any other segments of the population. All alternatives would be consistent with the Environmental Justice Executive Order.

National Forest Management Act (NFMA)

The National Forest Management Act and accompanying regulations require that several other specific findings be documented at the project level. The project is consistent with the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Forest Plan (1987), as amended.

Public Involvement

The March 2011 issue of the Forests' Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions provided the first notice to the public that a watershed restoration proposal was being considered for the Granite Creek Large Wood Replenishment Project and that the proposal would be addressed in an environmental analysis as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This project has been identified in each subsequent issue of the Quarterly Schedule to date. To date, the District has received three responses to the scoping notice and all three responses supported the project.

The project is a shared project with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Priest Community Forest Connection and United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Representatives of these agencies that reviewed the project in the field included: Dave Caudill, Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), Steve Toth (SRFB), Pat Powers (SRFB), Sandy Dotts, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Bruce Heiner, (WDFW), Mark Grandstaff (WDFW), Liz Johnson Gebhardt (PCFC) and Carrie Cordova (USFWS) and Michelle Eames (USFWS).

Implementation Date

This decision is not subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215 (4), since no objectional comments were received during the 30 day scoping period that ended April 2011. Implementation of this decision may occur immediately. This project is planned to begin in the summer of 2012.

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision contact Jill J. Cobb at the Priest Lake Ranger District Office, 32203 Highway 57, Priest River, Idaho 83856, or by telephone at 208-443-6835.



GLENN D. KLINGLER
District Ranger
Priest Lake Ranger District and Sandpoint Ranger District
Idaho Panhandle National Forests



Date

Figure 1:
 Target Reaches for Large Wood Replenishment
 Granite Subbasin Large Wood Replenishment Project

