APPENDICES 13

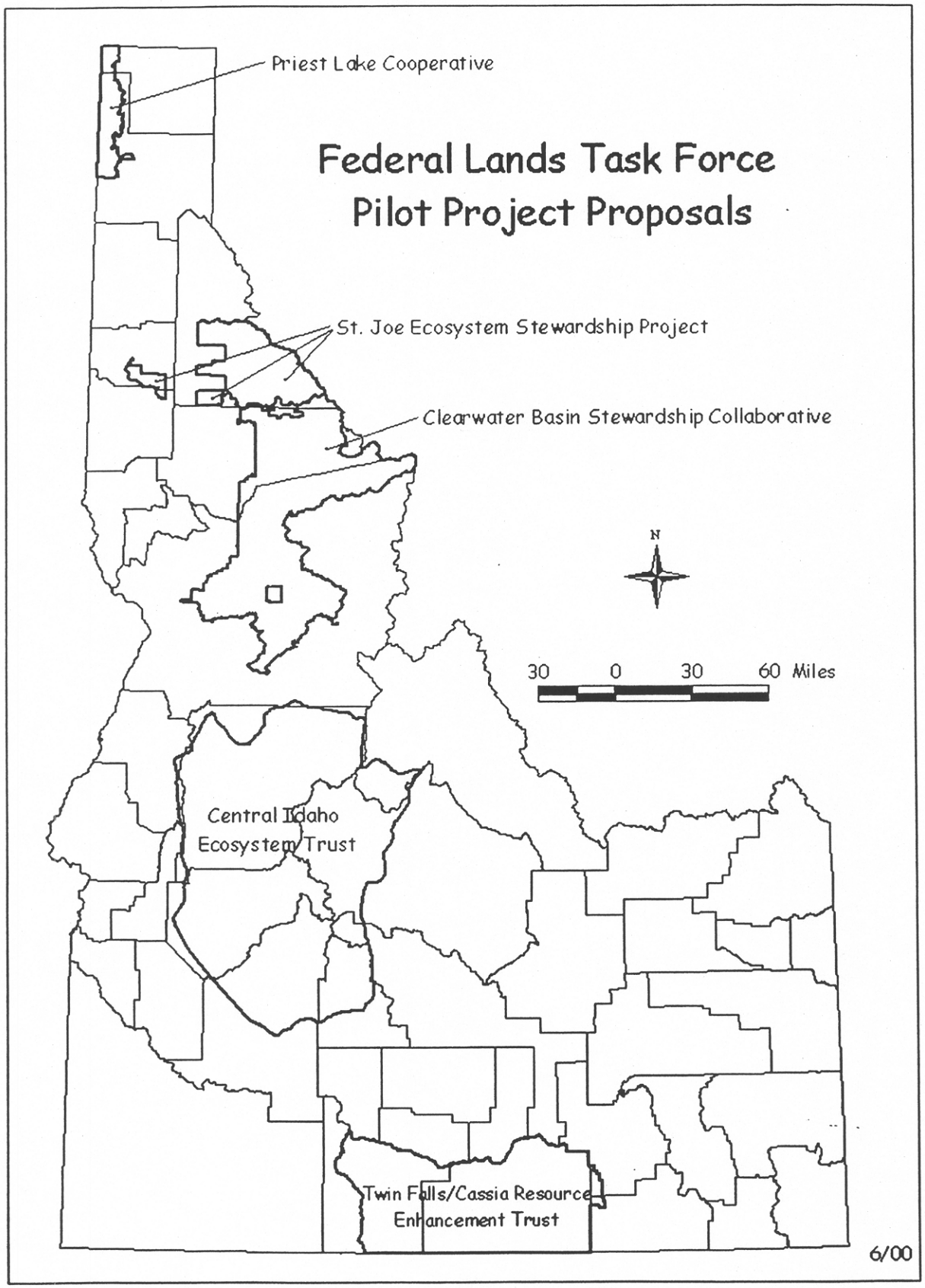
A. Pilot Project Area Map from the December 2000 Federal Lands Task Force Working Group Report

B. Idaho Association of Counties Public Lands Steering Committee 2002-2003 Resolution No. One—*A Resolution Calling for Idaho Congressional Delegation Introduction of the Clearwater Basin Pilot Project Draft Legislation*

C. Clearwater Basin Project Act, 107th Congress, 2d Session, H.R. 5629

D. News Release: Otter Proposes Clearwater Basin Project

E. Summary of the Clearwater Basin Project Act, H.R. 5629


Federal Lands Task Force
Pilot Project Proposals
Priest Lake Cooperative
St. Joe Ecosystem Stewardship Project
Clearwater Basin Stewardship Collaborative
N
30 0 30 60 Miles
Central Idaho
Ecosystem Trust
Twin Falls/Cassia Resource
Enhancement Trust
6/00

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IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
PUBLIC LANDS STEERING COMMITTEE
2002-2003
Resolution Number One

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR IDAHO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION INTRODUCTION OF THE CLEARWATER BASIN PILOT PROJECT DRAFT LEGISLATION.

atutes Affected: None

scal Impact: No immediate fiscal impact upon either local government or the State of Idaho.

onsor: Public Lands Steering Committee

HEREAS, the Clearwater basin is suffering from lack of forage and habitat within the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests, subsequently diminishing Elk populations, and a large-scale insect epidemic gravely increasing the risk of catastrophic fire; and

HEREAS, Basin communities are dependent upon the health of the basin for employment, economic benefits, safety, and protection of life and property; and

HEREAS, Clearwater Basin national forest lands require sustainable health through vegetation management to protect and improve animal and fish habitat, reduce threats of catastrophic fires and reduce further impacts upon the communities; and

HEREAS, the 2002 fire season represents one of the worst in recorded history and calls for swift action to ensure the safety of communities and firefighters and lessen the cost of fighting catastrophic fires in the future; however "gridlock" and "analysis paralysis" has stifled attempted actions by management agencies to lessen the risk; and

HEREAS, the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self-Determination Act of 2000, Public Law 106-393, created the North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee ("NCI RAC"), consisting of representatives from state and local government, tribes, industry and labor, outdoor recreation representatives, environmental and conservation groups, and members from the public; and

HEREAS, the NCI RAC requires a collaborative effort, joining the representative stakeholders with the Forest Service to better identify and prioritize projects and actions necessary to ensure the health of the entire ecosystem, including the

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forest, fish and wildlife habitat, and maintain or improve the health of the communities within the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests; and

VHEREAS, this collaborative effort allows representatives from the community to recommend actions intended to complement existing management techniques being undertaken by management agencies; and

VHEREAS, the Idaho Association of Counties, and the Idaho State Legislature, overwhelming supported the Federal Lands Task Force Working Group Report, from which the concepts of this pilot project stem.

OW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho Association of Counties recommends that the Idaho Congressional Delegation introduce the Clearwater Basin Pilot Project legislation for passage by the 107th Congress as soon as process allows.

DOPTED this 19th day of September, 2002

EFEATED this _____ day of September, 2002

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107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5629

To provide for enhanced collaborative forest stewardship management within the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests in Idaho, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 10, 2002

Mr. OTTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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A BILL

To provide for enhanced collaborative forest stewardship management within the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests in Idaho, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds and declares that:

(1) Elk populations within the Clearwater Basin in the State of Idaho have diminished drastically, in part because of lack of forage and habitat

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within the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests.

(2) Populations of salmon and steelhead within the Basin are listed as endangered or threatened, and restoration and protection of habitat within the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests will assist the recovery of these species.

(3) The Red and American River drainages within the Basin are experiencing large forest insect infestations and fuel loads that increase the risk of catastrophic fire and extensive destruction of fish, wildlife, and other forest ecosystem and community values.

(4) Other Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest areas within the Basin present similar issues that are related to forest conditions outside the historic range of variability and other factors.

(5) Communities within the Basin are dependent upon sustainable, healthy forest conditions for employment and other economic benefits, protection of property, and quality of life.

(6) The Basin is an area of significant importance to the Nez Perce Tribe and Tribe members continue to exercise treaty-reserved hunting and fishing rights in this area.

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(7) In order to protect and improve habitat for elk, salmon, steelhead and other key fish and wildlife species, reduce threats of catastrophic fire, and achieve other forest stewardship objectives, there is a need for vegetation treatments and other restoration and enhancement actions within these Clearwater Basin national forest lands.

(8) A pilot project, in which an advisory group and the Forest Service engage with the Nez Perce Tribe and other interested parties to identify and complete high priority activities through a collaborative approach, will address a compelling need to improve ecosystem health for fish, wildlife, and other community values and complement existing management of the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests.

SEC. 2. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Clearwater Basin Project Act".

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

(1) The terms "Clearwater Advisory Panel" and "CAP" mean the advisory group of interested persons established by the Secretary to meet the requirements of section 4.

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(2) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) The term "stewardship objectives" shall mean objectives that enhance forest ecosystems, and restore and improve land health and water quality. Stewardship objectives include—

(A) Road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration;

(B) Soil productivity improvement;

(C) Improvements in forest ecosystem health;

(D) Watershed restoration and maintenance;

(E) Restoration, maintenance and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat;

(F) Control of noxious weeds;

(G) Reestablishment of native species.

(4) The term "stewardship contract" means a contract to achieve land management goals for the national forests that meet local and rural community needs, as further described in section 347 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (as enacted by section 101(e) of division A of Public Law 105–277; 16 U.S.C. 2104 note).

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1 **SEC. 4. THE CLEARWATER ADVISORY PANEL.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—

3 (1) The Secretary shall establish and maintain
4 the Clearwater Advisory Panel to perform the duties
5 in subsection (b).

6 (2) The purpose of the CAP shall be to improve
7 collaborative relationships and to provide advice and
8 recommendations to the Forest Service regarding
9 the Clearwater Basin pilot project and activities
10 thereunder, as authorized by and consistent with the
11 purposes of this Act.

12 (b) The CAP shall—

13 (1) review and make recommendations to the
14 Forest Service regarding activities proposed for high
15 priority implementation as part of the pilot project
16 under this Act;

17 (2) provide early and continuous coordination
18 with appropriate Forest Service and other agency of-
19 ficials in reviewing and recommending activities for
20 high priority implementation under this Act;

21 (3) provide frequent opportunities for citizens,
22 organizations, tribes, agencies, and other interested
23 parties to participate openly and meaningfully, be-
24 ginning at the early stages of the activity schedule
25 development process under this Act.

26 (c) APPOINTMENT BY THE SECRETARY—

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1 (1) APPOINTMENT AND TERM.—The Secretary
2 shall appoint the members of the CAP for a term of
3 3 years beginning on the date of appointment. The
4 Secretary concerned may reappoint members to sub-
5 sequent 3-year terms.
6 (2) BASIC REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary
7 shall ensure that the CAP meets the requirements of
8 subsection (d).
9 (3) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary
10 shall make initial appointments to the CAP not later
11 than 90 days after the date of enactment of this
12 Act.
13 (4) VACANCIES.—The Secretary shall make ap-
14 pointments to fill vacancies on the CAP as soon as
15 practicable after the vacancy has occurred.
16 (5) COMPENSATION.—Members of the CAP
17 shall not receive any compensation.
18 (d) COMPOSITION.—
19 (1) NUMBER.—The CAP shall be comprised of
20 15 members.
21 (2) COMMUNITY INTERESTS REPRESENTED.—
22 Committee members shall be representative of the
23 interests of the following 3 categories:
24 (A) 5 persons who—
25 (i) represent organized labor;

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(ii) represent developed outdoor recreation, off highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation activities;

(iii) represent energy and mineral development interests;

(iv) represent the commercial timber industry; or

(v) hold Federal grazing permits, or other land use permits within the Project Area.

(B) 5 persons representing—

(i) nationally recognized environmental organizations;

(ii) regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations;

(iii) dispersed recreational activities;

(iv) archeaological and historical interests; or

(v) nationally or regionally recognized fish and wildlife interest groups.

(C) 5 persons who—

(i) hold State elected office or their designee;

(ii) hold county or local elected office;

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(iii) represent American Indian Tribes within or adjacent to the Project Area;

(iv) are school officials or teachers; or

(v) represent the affected public at large.

(3) BALANCED REPRESENTATION.—In appointing CAP members from the 3 categories in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall provide for balanced and broad representation from within each category.

(4) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The members of the CAP shall reside within the State of Idaho and, to the extent practicable, within or adjacent to the Project Area.

(5) CHAIRPERSON.—A majority on the CAP shall select the chairperson of the panel.

(e) APPROVAL PROCEDURES.—

(1) Subject to paragraph (2) and the other requirements of this Act, the CAP shall establish procedures for proposing, developing, and reviewing activities and schedules for recommendation to the Forest Service for approval and implementation under this Act. A quorum must be present to constitute an official meeting of the CAP.

(2) An activity or schedule may be recommended by the CAP to the applicable Forest Su-

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1 pervisor for approval and implementation under this
2 Act if it has been approved by a majority of CAP
3 members from each of the 3 categories in subsection
4 (d)(2).
5 (f) OTHER COMMITTEE AUTHORITIES AND REQUIRE-
6 MENTS.—
7 (1) STAFF ASSISTANCE.—The CAP may submit
8 to the Secretary a request for staff assistance from
9 Federal employees under the jurisdiction of the Sec-
10 retary.
11 (2) MEETINGS.—All meetings of the CAP shall
12 be announced at least 1 week in advance in a local
13 newspaper of record and shall be open to the public.
14 (3) RECORDS.—The CAP shall maintain
15 records of the meetings of the panel and make the
16 records available for public inspection.
17 **SEC. 5. THE CLEARWATER BASIN PROJECT.**
18 (a) PROJECT TITLE.—The pilot project authorized by
19 this Act shall be known as the "Clearwater Basin
20 Project".
21 (b) PROJECT AREA.—The area encompassed by the
22 Project shall be the North Fork, Powell, and Lochsa
23 Ranger Districts on the Clearwater National Forest, and
24 the Red River/Elk City, Moose Creek and Clearwater
25 Ranger Districts on the Nez Perce National Forest.

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1 (c) AUTHORITY AND DUTIES OF THE CLEARWATER
2 ADVISORY PANEL REGARDING THE PROJECT.—The CAP
3 shall review and recommend activities for high priority im-
4 plementation within the Project Area that are authorized
5 under this Act, according to the requirements in this Act.
6 (d) ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED FOR RECOMMENDA-
7 TION AND IMPLEMENTATION UNDER THIS ACT.—The
8 CAP may recommend activities for which funding is au-
9 thorized and appropriated under this Act or other law.
10 The activities that the CAP recommends for implementa-
11 tion under this Act shall be those that the CAP determines
12 are high priority to implement stewardship objectives, as
13 defined in this Act.
14 (e) STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—A total of 3 stew-
15 ardship contracts in addition to those authorized under
16 any other law are authorized for recommendation by the
17 CAP and approval and implementation in accordance
18 with, and to achieve the purposes of, this Act.
19 (f) DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL, AND IMPLEMENTA-
20 TION OF FIVE-YEAR SCHEDULE FOR PRIORITY ACTIVI-
21 TIES.—
22 (1) GENERAL.—Within 2 years after enactment
23 of this Act, the CAP shall, in consultation with and
24 with technical assistance from the applicable Forest
25 Supervisor, develop and submit for Forest Super-

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1 visor approval schedules of high priority activities to
2 be commenced within the Project Area for the ensu-
3 ing 5-year period. A schedule shall be developed and
4 approved for the Clearwater National Forest portion
5 of the Project Area, and a separate schedule for the
6 Nez Perce National Forest portion of the Project
7 Area. Thereafter, the CAP shall develop and submit
8 for approval such schedules for the following 5-year
9 period, in advance thereof. Each 5-year schedule
10 shall be in sufficient detail to describe the high pri-
11 ority activities to commence in the Project Area over
12 the 5-year period and the timing for their implemen-
13 tation, and to allow reasonable site-specific, project
14 level evaluation of their environmental effects. The
15 scope of the activities included in each schedule shall
16 be reasonably adjusted to the extent that the CAP
17 and applicable Forest Supervisor determine nec-
18 essary to allow such evaluation to be completed with-
19 in the time periods provided by this Act.
20 (2) CONSISTENCY WITH FOREST PLAN.—The
21 activities included within the 5-year schedules shall
22 be consistent with the applicable forest land and re-
23 source management plan ("LRMP"). The schedule
24 may include any amendment of the applicable forest
25 LRMP that the CAP recommends or that the appli-

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1 cable Forest Supervisor determines is necessary to
2 allow or facilitate implementation of 1 or more ac-
3 tivities in the schedule.

4 (3) NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT
5 AND RELATED PROCEDURES.—

6 (A) The Forest Service shall complete any
7 applicable National Environmental Policy Act
8 ("NEPA") procedures for the approval at the
9 site-specific, project level of the activities in
10 each 5-year schedule, tiered to the applicable
11 forest LRMP environmental impact statement
12 ("EIS"). The NEPA and any review, consulta-
13 tion and coordination under other laws, includ-
14 ing but not limited to the National Forest Man-
15 agement Act, Endangered Species Act, and Na-
16 tional Historic Preservation Act, must be com-
17 pleted within 1 year after the Forest Service, in
18 consultation with the NCI RAC, issues the pub-
19 lic scoping notice regarding the proposed sched-
20 ule.

21 (B) The Forest Service and any other Fed-
22 eral agencies involved shall provide sufficient
23 personnel and other resources directly or
24 through contracting to complete, within the 1-
25 year period, any applicable NEPA and other

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1 procedures for the activities in the schedule,
2 and without substantially delaying implementa-
3 tion of other forest management activities in
4 Region 1 of the Forest Service. The Forest
5 Service and other involved agencies may rely
6 upon or use any NEPA or other analysis, docu-
7 ments or procedures previously performed for
8 any activity in the schedule.

9 (C) If any required review, consultation or
10 coordination under NEPA or other laws has not
11 been completed within the 1-year period, the
12 lack of completion shall not be a basis for chal-
13 lenging or delaying submittal, approval, or im-
14 plementation of activities in the schedule, upon
15 a finding by the CAP and the applicable Forest
16 Supervisor that sufficient review, consultation
17 and coordination has occurred and a sufficient
18 record exists to make a reasoned decision re-
19 garding approval of the activities in the sched-
20 ule.

21 (D) The CAP shall consult with the Nez
22 Perce Tribe in developing and recommending
23 each 5-year schedule of activities. The Forest
24 Service shall consult with the Tribe to assure
25 that the activities in the schedule are consistent

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1 with treaty and any other obligations to the
2 Tribe.
3 (4) SUBMITTAL TO FOREST SUPERVISOR.—The
4 CAP shall submit a final recommendation regarding
5 each 5-year schedule, together with the record of
6 NEPA and any other review, consultation and co-
7 ordination conducted for the schedule, to the appli-
8 cable Forest Supervisor for approval. The final rec-
9 ommendation and record shall be submitted to the
10 Forest Supervisor at least 30 days in advance of the
11 date for commencing implementation.
12 (5) APPROVAL BY FOREST SUPERVISOR.—With-
13 in 30 days after receiving the CAP recommended
14 schedule and record, the Forest Supervisor shall
15 issue a project or activity decision document regard-
16 ing approval of the recommended schedule in accord-
17 ance with NEPA and any other applicable proce-
18 dures. In the decision document, the Forest Super-
19 visor may approve the schedule, place conditions on
20 implementing the schedule or disapprove the sched-
21 ule and return it to the CAP for further consider-
22 ation with instructions. If the Forest Supervisor has
23 not issued a decision document upon expiration of
24 30 days after receipt of the CAP recommended
25 schedule and record, the schedule shall be deemed

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1 approved by the Forest Supervisor and subject to
2 administrative appeal under any such Department of
3 Agriculture procedures applicable to Forest Service
4 project or activity Record of Decision or Decision
5 Notice documents issued pursuant to NEPA.

6 (6) IMPLEMENTATION.—Upon approval of the
7 schedule and subject to any stay taking effect pursu-
8 ant to Department of Agriculture Forest Service
9 project or activity administrative appeal procedures,
10 the Forest Service may issue any permits, contracts,
11 or other authorizations for activities in the schedule
12 without further NEPA or other review, consultation
13 or coordination with other entities.

14 (7) ACTIVITIES NOT INCLUDED IN A 5-YEAR
15 SCHEDULE; AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULE.—Activities
16 that the CAP determines should proceed in advance
17 of approval of the first 5-year schedule, or which
18 otherwise are not included in a 5-year schedule, may
19 be approved and implemented on an individual or
20 grouped basis, upon completing the process and re-
21 quirements for review and approval of a 5-year
22 schedule. A 5-year schedule may otherwise be
23 amended upon completing the process and require-
24 ments for review and approval of the schedule.

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1 (g) RELATION TO OTHER SCHEDULES, PLANS AND
2 ACTIVITIES.—
3 (1) The 5-year schedules and activities author-
4 ized under this section shall supplement other sched-
5 ules, plans, and projects or other activities author-
6 ized and implemented under other law; provided,
7 upon CAP recommendation and applicable Forest
8 Supervisor approval, an activity that was included in
9 another schedule or plan or proposed, authorized, or
10 funded under other law may be authorized and im-
11 plemented as an activity under this section, if the
12 activity otherwise meets the requirements in this Act
13 for implementation as a high priority activity.
14 (2) Notwithstanding Public Law 106–393 (16
15 U.S.C. 500 note), any moneys received by the Forest
16 Service from activities approved and implemented
17 under this Act shall be distributed in accordance
18 with the Act of May 23, 1908 (16 U.S.C. 500).
19 **SEC. 6. MONITORING AND REPORTS.**
20 (a) REPORT ON APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULA-
21 TIONS.—The CAP may submit to the Secretary and the
22 Committees of Congress a compilation of applicable rules
23 and regulations which in the view of the CAP are inappro-
24 priate, incompatible with this Act, or unduly burdensome.

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1 (b) MONITORING, ANNUAL REPORT ON THE
2 PROJECT.—The Secretary shall monitor the activities and
3 achievements in the Project Area under this Act. No later
4 than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act and
5 each year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report
6 thereon to the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
7 sources of the United States Senate and the Committee
8 on Resources of the United States House of Representa-
9 tives. The report shall include detailed information on the
10 sources and uses of funds and the status, outputs and
11 other results accomplished for each activity recommended
12 for priority implementation by the CAP under this Act.
13 (c) STATE OF IDAHO REPORT.—The Secretary shall
14 request the State of Idaho, through the University of
15 Idaho College of Natural Resources or other means, to re-
16 view the activities and achievements in the Project Area
17 under this Act and to prepare and submit a report thereon
18 to the Secretary and the Committees of Congress 5 years
19 after the date of enactment of this Act and each 5 years
20 thereafter that the Project continues. The report shall in-
21 clude an assessment of whether, and to what extent, the
22 activities funded pursuant to this Act are meeting or en-
23 hancing the accomplishment of stewardship objectives as
24 defined in this Act.

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1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as
3 may be necessary annually, to remain available until ex-
4 pended, for the following:

5 (1) Developing, submitting, approving and im-
6 plementing 5-year schedules and priority activities
7 under this Act, including but not limited to the stew-
8 ardship contracts authorized by this Act;

9 (2) Other CAP activities and technical assist-
10 ance to the CAP for purposes of this Act;

11 (3) Monitoring and reporting authorized under
12 this Act;

13 (4) Such other actions as are necessary to im-
14 plement this Act.

15 The authorization in this section shall continue until the
16 end of the 2012 fiscal year unless reauthorized by an Act
17 of Congress.

18 **SEC. 8. SEVERABILITY.**

19 If any provision of this Act or the application thereof
20 to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity
21 of the remainder of the Act and of the application of such
22 provision to other persons and circumstances shall not be
23 affected thereby.

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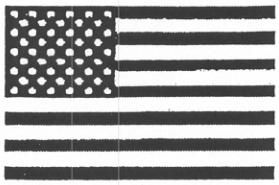

GOP.gov and Congress extend our sympathies to all those affected by the tragic events.

God bless America.

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FROM THE OFFICE OF
Representative C. L. "Butch" Otter
Idaho, 1st District
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NEWS RELEASE | Media Contact: Mark Warbis (208) 336-9831/866-0840

OTTER PROPOSES CLEARWATER BASIN PROJECT

BILL CALLS FOR COLLABORATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT APPROACH

WASHINGTON, Friday, Oct. 11— Congressman C.L. "Butch" Otter introduced legislation on Thursday to establish a demonstration project in north-central Idaho's Clearwater Basin on a new, collaborative approach to addressing critical resource issues in national forests.

The Clearwater Basin Project – involving the Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests – would seek to demonstrate a better way of overcoming and avoiding insect infestations, disease outbreaks, catastrophic wildfires and other fish and wildlife habitat and forest health problems. The concept was described in the December 2000 report, "Breaking the Gridlock," from Idaho's Federal Lands Task Force Working Group.

Compromise legislation already is before the House to deal with the immediate and critical threat of wildfires through thinning of overgrown, diseased, dead and dying forests. Otter said his bill, H.R. 5629, is intended as a starting point for continuing discussion as policy makers take the next step in more pro-actively addressing forest health issues.

"I want to improve conditions on the ground by building on the sense of stewardship that so many people and organizations beyond the federal agencies have for our forests," Otter said. "The idea here is to develop a consensus between stakeholders and the Forest Service for breaking through the analysis bottleneck and expediting specific high-priority forest management jobs while respecting environmental laws."

The Clearwater Basin Project Act would require establishment of a Clearwater Advisory Panel, including representatives from a broad spectrum of stakeholders. The panel would work with the Forest Service to recommend stewardship activities to implement within the basin over a five-year period, subject to forest supervisor approval.

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- Trade Promotional Authority

All required environmental consultation and coordination procedures for the proposed activities would have to be completed within a year of the Forest Service issuing the public scoping notice for the work. The forest supervisor then would have 30 days to decide whether to approve the schedule recommended by the panel.

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Representative J.C. Watts, Jr., Chairman
Republican Conference, U.S. House of Representatives
Privacy & Security Statement

D

THE CLEARWATER BASIN PROJECT ACT

The Clearwater Basin Project Act is proposed to implement concepts and address needs identified in the Clearwater Basin Collaborative Project described in the December 2000 Federal Land Task Force Working Group Report, "Breaking the Gridlock." The aims of the original Clearwater Project and the Act are to provide a better mechanism to address critical resource issues concerning Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest lands within the Basin. This legislation is needed because the Forest Service has not been able to adequately address insect outbreak, catastrophic fire, and other fish and wildlife habitat and ecosystem health issues on the lands it manages within the Basin. The agency does recognize the need for action, but finds itself bogged down in analysis "gridlock."

This proposed legislation provides an up-to-date, reasonable and realistic approach to implementing a pilot project on national forest lands in the Clearwater Basin. The legislation takes advantage of existing collaboration and stewardship mechanisms to provide a more effective framework for stakeholders to work with the Forest Service to attain some meaningful forest management results on the ground. The Act facilitates such results through consensus-building procedures to expedite identification, scheduling and implementation of specific high-priority forest stewardship activities. The legislation provides a working test of innovative collaborative management, fully within the framework of existing environmental laws.

The Act:

- requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Clearwater Advisory Panel ("CAP"), a collaborative group comprised of a broad spectrum of stakeholders in Clearwater Basin national forest management;

- provides for the CAP to work with the Forest Service, other agencies and the public to consider and recommend specific high-priority forest stewardship activities to implement over a five-year period within the Basin;

- requires the appropriate Forest Supervisor to review and approve the five-year schedule of activities for each Forest;

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- requires the Forest Service and other federal agencies to complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other consultation and coordination procedures for each proposed schedule of activities, within one year after the Forest Service issues the public scoping notice for the proposed schedule;

- requires the Forest Supervisor to then issue a decision document regarding whether to approve the schedule recommended by the CAP, within 30 days;

- provides additional authority for stewardship and other contracting to prepare and carry out activities recommended and approved for priority implementation;

- provides for one or more activities to be moved through the recommendation and approval process in advance of or between five-year schedule cycles, if needed;

- provides for monitoring to measure the success of the project and to assure accountability for that success;

- authorizes funding and requires other support needed for the project to succeed.

The Act DOES NOT:

- transfer ownership or control of any national forest lands from the United States to anyone else;

- transfer Forest Service national forest decision authority to anyone else;

- exempt Forest Service decisions or the priority activities from environmental laws, or from administrative appeal and judicial review;

- impair opportunities for participation by any interest group or the general public.

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