

# Wilderness Report

*A non-profit organization dedicated to protecting wilderness values*

March 12, 2017

Cheryl Probert  
Forest Supervisor  
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest  
903 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Kamiah, ID 83536

Dear Ms. Probert,

I am sure you are a very busy person and I appreciate your earlier response to my inquiry (copy enclosed) about motorized use of the Macky Bar Pack Bridge and the road to Bluebird Hole. However, your reply raises a number of additional questions that I hope you will be able to address.

First, in your October 25<sup>th</sup> letter you said you anticipated issuing a Travel Plan Decision relevant to this matter last fall. Did that occur? If so, I would appreciate receiving a copy of this decision to review.

Additionally you mentioned that, when the DRAMVU finalized, any administrative or private motorized use of the road to Bluebird Hole or the Macky Bar Bridge would be by permit only. I do not understand this comment. What is the jurisdiction for maintaining a road in designated wilderness or the issuance of permits for the private use of motorized vehicles in wilderness? I ask that you take a minute to explain the parameters associated with such a permit process; what is the application process and under what authorization would such a permit be issued allowing private use of motor vehicles in a designated wilderness?

Further, I posed the following questions in my July 2016 letter and/or my September 2016. Your written response to these points would still be greatly appreciated.

Why are Forest Service employees accessing wilderness on motor vehicles?

Why is the road to Fivemile still open to motorized traffic?

Why is the Mackay Bar Pack Bridge open to motorized traffic?

What is the long-range management objective for the Mackay Bar Pack Bridge?

I am also requesting original or summary documents detailing the Forest's enforcement history related to the illegal use of this bridge by motorized vehicles

Wilderness Report is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting wilderness values. Because the management of the Frank Church Wilderness, in compliance with the tenets of the Wilderness Act, is of a matter of concern to many wilderness users, correspondence related to this issue will be posted on the Wilderness Report website—currently under development.

Sincerely,

Art Pope  
Executive Director