

November 20, 2008

Tom Reilly  
Forest Supervisor  
Clearwater National Forest  
12730 Highway 12  
Orofino, ID 83544

Dear Tom,

It has come to our attention that the Lochsa Ranger District is once again considering a reduction in the number of pack stock to facilitate budget cuts. However, it is also our understanding that the decision was reversed and all the animals for the Lochsa string were taken to Nine Mile for the winter. As an organization, we applaud and appreciate this decision.

We believe any reduction in the Forest pack string would result in an unsustainable level for the stock program and ultimately the wilderness trail program on the Clearwater National Forest. As partners, we find this unacceptable and dangerously precedence setting for the agency's stock program as a whole.

The Clearwater National Forest has a rich history of administrative stock use and has held an enviable position of backcountry stock use expertise for many decades. The reduction of the stock program we feel is but one step away from the total loss of the stock program on the Clearwater National Forest.

The Back Country Horsemen of Idaho will do whatever is within our power to assist you in maintaining your Forest stock program at the current level.

Sincerely,

Raenette Didier, Chairman  
Back Country Horsemen of Idaho  
230 Pleasant Valley Rd.  
Clearwater, ID 83552

