

EA B=5  
ERX=5

#The EA notes that reasonable mining plans "must be approved" under Forest Service regulations, but in addition to restricting plans in their specifics, the Forest Service would intensely monitor suction dredging operations. The Forest Service would line out operation areas, photograph and sketch operations, visit dredging sites during the dredging season, and visit each suction dredging site within one month of the end of the end of the season. The Forest Service would also take before-and-after photos to "document any substantial changes in stream channel and riparian conditions...in particular, project area modifications which are likely to persist into the next steelhead spawning season or spring/summer chinook spawning season."

#In addition to federal and state agencies, the proposed monitoring would be reported to the general public.

#In recent years and in forums ranging from the state capitol to the South Fork Clearwater River itself, suction dredgers have publicly argued that suction dredging does not harm rivers or the fish within them. The EA affirms that allowing regulated suction dredging would have no impact on the total amount of sediment in the South Fork Clearwater River – and would have only slight consequences for fish and wildlife, which would be further limited by the shortness of the open season and the smallness of the open area.



Laura A. Smith  
Public Affairs Specialist/Web Manager  
Forest Service  
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests  
p: 208-983-5143  
[lasmith02@fs.fed.us](mailto:lasmith02@fs.fed.us)

104 Airport Road  
Grangeville, ID 83530  
[www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater](http://www.fs.usda.gov/nezperceclearwater)



Caring for the land and serving people

*This FOIA document refutes EPA  
marrative of long lasting environmental  
harm!*

*NOTE: Sediment*