



Ravalli County Off Road User Association

P.O. Box 72, Hamilton, Montana 59840

www.ravallioffroad.org

October 29, 2014

Supervisor, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest
ATTN: Forest Plan Revision
903 3rd Street
Kamiah, Idaho 83536

This letter contains comments from the Ravalli County Off Road User Association (RCORUA) concerning the proposed revision of the Nez Perce-Clearwater (NPC) National Forest by the settlement of the ISSA/BRC lawsuit. RCORUA is a group of about 350 off-road enthusiasts located primarily in Ravalli County. Many of our members pursue their recreational interests in the Great Burn area as well as other areas in the NPC National Forest. We request that RCORUA be considered an "interested party" for this action and that these comments be included in the administrative record for this action.

RCORUA supports the comments on this proposal submitted to the NPC from the Bitterroot Ridgerunners Snowmobile Club dated October 26, 2014. We believe their comments are relevant and substantive, and our membership offer unqualified support for those comments.

RCORUA would like to emphasize our opposition to the implementation of the Region 1 De Facto Wilderness policy in any RWA areas contained within the boundaries of the NPC National Forest. Implementation of this policy in any way creates serious contradictions and inconsistencies in the administration of our public lands and disenfranchises a significant population of motorized and non-motorized citizens. Additionally, implementation of the De Facto Wilderness policy in RWAs failed to comply with NEPA regulations for public disclosure and involvement.

We emphatically recommend that management prescriptions contained in the 1987 Forest Plan be adopted in the Revised Plan for all RWAs in the NPC National Forest. These prescriptions allow existing motorized and non-motorized uses to continue. Existing routes can be maintained with mechanical devices. No new motorized or non-motorized routes can be created. These management prescriptions do not degrade the non-ephemeral wilderness characteristics of the area in the event that Congress should choose to designate the area as Wilderness, and at the same time do not disenfranchise existing uses or visitors. This is a fair and balanced management practice and should be adopted without change in the Revised NPC Forest Plan for all RWAs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Thompson, Road and Trail Coordinator
Ravalli County Off Road User Association
406-531-3103