

PUBLIC COMMENT RECORD



Date: 9-14-2014

Title of Project: NPCW Forest Plan Revision

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Comments:

Please see attached

Signature of Individual Commenting: Alida Bockino

September 14, 2014

Dear Committee members,

My husband, Joe, spent 40 years catch and release fly fishing in the Clearwater country. Joe died in January 2013 at only 63, after a fall from a ladder. I am writing to you on his behalf about a land he loved.

In attempt to gain information, I have read the Proposed Action Plan, attended meetings, talked to experts and read many documents. Based on what I have learned I give my support to the Friends of the Clearwater citizen alternative plan for the Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forests.

The acreage recommended in option A/B is too meager. The Weitas Creek area and Gospel Hump area identified by F.O.C. should be supported. The Weitas area is a known elk calving and wintering ground and needs maximum protection to maintain a healthy elk population. We keep hearing from Fish & Game that elk populations are dropping, then why would we want to further jeopardize these animals?

Water quality and fish and wildlife habitat standards must be consistent and enforceable with no loopholes for any interest groups. Slopes of 50% or more must be off limits to road building and logging. Sensitive soils and plants and habitat must be given protection. The proposed riparian strategy falls way short of these goals.

Species of concern must be identified and monitored and enforceable standards for protection enacted.

Logging should be restricted from roadless areas, riparian areas, landslide areas and habitat areas. Natural processes, rather than any agency, can maintain healthy and diverse forests. Timber salvage cannot be allowed to endanger wildlife habitat. Here again

quantitative standards must be enforced.

Motorized access in this area must be restricted - this is the largest intact ecosystem of its kind in the Continental U.S. with unique plant and animal species. Our role is not to harvest timber here, race through on motorized vehicles - NO - our role is to protect the pristine streams diverse plant and animal species and fertile soils for all time. Leaving no trace in this magnificent country is what humans need to do.

Although my three children are grown, they miss the opportunity to fish with their Dad in his favorite streams and my grandchildren will never be able to learn from the master how to carefully release a beautiful cutthroat trout without injuring its delicate skin.

But we do have wonderful memories of our first family backpack trip among the majestic cedar trees and lush ferns along the down river trail from the Isabella Creek Trail head. We can recall eating the crawdad's we caught in Ruby Creek's pristine water. We still marvel at the amazing night sky from our campsite on Cayuse Creek. We commented how these places are still the same as we scattered Joe's ashes in Doris Creek (on Westas Creek) just last summer.

It is my sincere hope, that with thoughtful, careful planning these pristine and untrammelled places will remain for generations to come to love, protect and cherish.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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