

February 22, 2018

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests
Zach Peterson, Forest Planner
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Subject: Forest Plan Revision

As a retired fisheries habitat biologist, concerned citizen, taxpayer and lifetime advocate of access to America's public lands, I wish to submit the following recommendations to be considered for the revised forest plan.

My initial exposure to The Nez Perce was summer 1981. I collected sediment transport samples along road berms in the Horse creek drainage, also primary productivity samples and discharge rates in the Horse Creek first and second order stream channels. Since then I have made an annual visit to the many areas of the "big wild" for meaningful outdoor recreational activities - camping, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, inspiration, observation and appreciation of the biological integrity and ongoing natural processes of this still functioning expansive forest complex. Irreplaceable!

As natural resource professionals, I hold the USFS accountable for application of current scientific research and best use practices for ensuring this large intact system be wholly sustained with minimal adverse impacts from industrial, extractive and various vehicular activities.

Roadless areas and wilderness recommendation

Full protection for current 1.5 million acres. Addition of Gospel-Hump area and Weitas Creek drainage basin for wilderness designation. Eliminate current loopholes for private use of landing strips and admin. use of motorized gear.

Watershed, fish and wildlife habitat protection

Implementation of current best practices and mandatory compliance of these practices along with enforceable measurable standards.

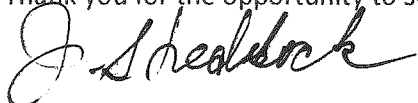
Logging and roads

In compliance with best practices for habitat protection, logging be limited to areas with existing roads that meet water quality and wildlife standards.

Fire suppression

Recognize the crucial role of wildland fires for forest succession in this region. Limited "salvage logging" and associated roads severely diminish crucial habitat for all trophic levels of the forest food chain.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit commentary.



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