

**In regards to the “Nez Perce-Clearwater NFs Forest Plan Revision”**

Hello,

As an undergraduate in the College of Civil and Environmental Engineering, I would like to recommend "Alternative X" with the intent of increasing public access to the outdoors.

By limiting the use of mechanized transportation, it is discriminating against a wide range of individuals that do not possess the physical abilities to experience outdoors like others. By banning mechanized transportation on trails, it is only disenfranchising to the physically impaired.

An increase in wilderness would only increase the cost of trail maintenance (by preventing use of motorized equipment like chainsaws) while decreasing the amount of trail usage. Without normal vehicle traffic, many trails will become overgrown and lost even to foot travel (seen in many other regions of the state). The least expensive maintainers of trails in Idaho are the people that use them. Many organizations and clubs seasonally clear trails for the public such as "Central Idaho Trail Riders Alliance".

The importance of a maintained trail system and access are extremely important when combating forest fires and maintaining our forests. Many remote cabins and settlements exist in the Nez Perce and Clearwater forests. This is why it is important not to disregard their safety in the name of restricting public travel in our forests.

On behalf of the environmental impact of trails and increased usage, humans in the forest are as natural as the forest itself. Trails provide increased mobility for wildlife to travel especially in desperate times such as forest fires and large snow years. Animals that remain in high elevations in the winter such as moose, are seen frequently using the compacted snowmobile trails to travel to find food.

To assume that because of the presence of mechanized vehicles, that there are no longer natural and wild places is dishonest to people such as myself who find wild and scenic places everyday using mechanized equipment; so please consider keeping Idaho Accessible and consider “Alternative X”.

Very respectfully,



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