

12/29/23

Leanne, please let me introduce myself. My name's Mark Klinke. I'm a retired Silviculture Forester off the Nez Perce/Clearwater NF (1989-2014)

I'm writing to you to express my concerns over the Final NP-CNF Forest Plan, specifically the removal of 32,000 acres from the Great Burn Area of recommended wilderness.

I was in charge of the Whitebark Pine Restoration Program on the Forest. I've spent a considerable amount of time in some of the areas designated for removal.

It would be a complete shame to open this remote, wonderful area up to snowmobiles + mountain bikes.

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How much coordination + analysis was completed between the Lolo NF + the NP-CNF w/on the Great Burn Area? It seems that a co-managed area should be analyzed together regardless of Forest boundaries.

How will the opening up of the Great Burn affect exposed Whitebark pine seedling + saplings on exposed ridges?

What about the encroachment of non-native plants + grasses into the area? How does the listing of the Wolverine affect this remote area?

I urge you to sit down with Cheryl to discuss these concerns and her rationalization for her decision to open up a large portion of the Great Burn to snowmobiles.

Thanks

Mark Klinke, USFS retired RW 1/5/24