

Krystal Urvat
1414 Crooked River Rd.
Elk City, Idaho

February 15, 2024

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest
ATTN: Objection Reviewing Officer, Northern Region 1
26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804

Regarding: Interested Person Request to Participate in the “2023 Land Management Plan for Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests” (“Forest Plan”) and the “Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Land Management Plan Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests” (“FEIS”) Objection Resolution Process

Dear Objection Reviewing Officer:

Objection Issues that I have an interest in:

- East Meadow Creek should not be a Recommended Wilderness Area (RWA)
- Recommended Wilderness Designations impacting motorized Off-Highway Vehicle opportunities. Current uses in Meadow Creek areas need to allowed and continue.
- No objective for over 50” OHV User Group
- Recreation Opportunity Spectrum, non-motorized ROS overlay on Front Country and Roadless Areas
- Wildfire. There is nothing addressing how a fire will be fought in the event that more Wilderness is created near towns like Elk City, Newsome, Dixie, Orogrande.

Brief Explanation of Objection:

- Recommended Wilderness Areas proximity to local communities. Orogrande residents witnessed how devastating a wildfire can be when a community is less than 5 miles away and Roadless Area Boundary butts up to private property. Areas in and around East Meadow Creek, Elk City, Dixie, Newsome Creek and other Roadless Areas like Burpee Mountain should not be designated as RWA.
- The Nez Perce-CW NF office has acknowledged in 2019 that previous administration closed and changed motorized designations to non-motorized with a swipe of a pen without public and local community awareness, input and due process. This was acknowledged when Karen Crosby championed the Silver Creek Bridge issue for Orogrande residents. When we performed the DRAMVU back in 2008, the forest office never mentioned to residents that a

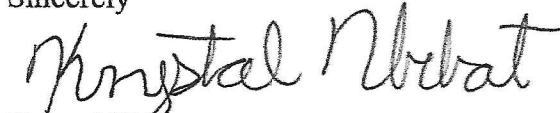
section of Silver Creek had been reclassified from full size vehicle classification to ATV 50" classification back in 2005.

- Lack of Sustainable Recreation Management Objectives. I have provided data showing our growing OHV recreation user groups usage and there is nothing addressing these items in the Land Management Plan and FEIS.
- There needs to be something added into the Land Management Plan addressing how the Forest will address wildfires instead of letting play there role, which is what happened in Orogrande. Gnome residents are still concerned that a potential wildfire in Wilderness or the Roadless areas will wipe out our structures in the area – nothing is being done for fuels reductions on the Center Star mine area with beetle kill trees. The Land Management Plan states the Forest will embrace and let wildfire play its role. This is unacceptable and not what our greater Elk City Area wants or needs. We need the forest service to take a more active role in vegetation management in Community Protection Zones.
- Non-motorized ROS kills any opportunity to add ATV Trail. I oppose and ROS designations that could set the stage for motorized closures to Off-Highway Vehicles and up to Full Size Vehicle classifications.

Statement Demonstrating the Requestor's previous participation in the Planning Process:

Since the start of the Forest Plan Revision, I have been providing comment information to Karen Crosby who champions the Greater Elk City Area Community and residents' concerns and issues. I have also personally attended Forest Revision Plan Sessions held in Elk City and spoken comments at townhall meeting held by Cheryl Probert in Elk City, and commented orally and written throughout this process. I have provided tangible data of Orogrande Activity/Utilization Facilities/Resources Report data from 2016 – 2019. I have provided Recreation Survey data for the Elk City area showing non-motorized and motorized recreation users. Less than 10% non-motorized users use the area and between 75 to 100 percent recreation users are motorized. The Idaho County Commissioners submitted a Resolution Advisory Vote with Idaho County voters saying that they did not want any additional acres of Wilderness or Wild and Scenic Designations. We performed and submitted a signature drive showing over 1,000 recreation users who do not want any additional RWAs, Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Designations. This tangible data has been ignored, and the residents and recreation users feel let down.

Sincerely



Krystal Urvat

cc:

Idaho County Commissioner Board, Skip Brandt

Senator James Risch

Senator Mike Crapo

Representative Russ Fulcher