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Organization:

Title:

Comments: COLLABORATIVE INFORMATION -- WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS EVALUATION

Hello,

What a day to write to you about Wild & Scenic Rivers! Happy 50th Anniversary to this Act, and thank you for managing the Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forest in a way that protects our existing designated W&S Rivers.

I'm reaching out today to ask that the 89 streams that you have found eligible for W&S Designation remain eligible under the new forest plan. If you finalize the Draft Suitability Report, I ask that all 89 streams be found suitable in the final report.

I am an Idahoan, born and raised. I have been fortunate enough to spend a good chunk of my life on our existing W&S Rivers. This has included guiding classic stretches like the Middle Fork Salmon, Jarbidge, Owyhee, and Bruneau Rivers. Many of these rivers are protected for several Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs), and their protection has allowed future generations such as myself to experience these values. As a guide, I've witnessed the tangible impact that the outstanding scenery, recreation, and geological features have on our guests. I've seen chinook salmon, who have swam over 800 miles to Dagger Falls, jumping their final obstacle before finding pristine spawning habitat. I've seen mountain goats, otters, bighorn sheep, and mountain bluebirds in numbers that you don't see anywhere else. The point I'm trying to make is simple: these protections associated with W&S Rivers work, and they are in the best interest of ourselves and future generations.

I've also witnessed these same ORVs on other streams that are eligible under the new forest plan. For example:

*Lolo Creek, a tributary of the Clearwater, is one of the best, if not the best, low-volume whitewater kayaking in the entire state. The features that have formed in that river through geomorphological processes are unique among other streams in the area-I frequently visit Lolo Creek while visiting other wild & scenic rivers in the area, such as the Lochsa.

*John's Creek, a tributary to the South Fork Clearwater, is another drainage that is close to my heart. The river provides ample springs from which to drink cold, clear water. Development in the drainage could certainly change the landscape and impact these springs.

*Fish Creek, a tributary to the Lochsa, provides a unique, steep, low-volume creek for whitewater kayaking. This stands in stark contrast to the large-volume nature of the Lochsa. It is very rare to find places like Fish creek that carry a continuous steep gradient, while providing quick "eddies" and "pour-overs" that make whitewater kayaking so enjoyable.

*Moose creek, one of the largest tributaries to the Selway, is one of the top 3 rivers that I would like to enjoy with my whitewater kayak. Between ample flows, snowy road, and regulations on the Selway, it is difficult to find a good window to access Moose creek. But I have heard that the quality of whitewater is high.

*South Fork Clearwater, although the draft suitability report indicated that this river is an "opportunistic run", I strongly disagree. I have personally bypassed the Salmon and the Lochsa to run the South Fork Clearwater instead. It is seen among the boating community as a run that is similar in character to the North Fork Payette, but with much lower consequences due to road development on only one side of the river (in contrast to the NF Payette, which has a road on one side, and a railroad on the other). While the Lochsa and the Salmon also provide phenomenal boating opportunities, those rivers are seen as intermediate rivers, whereas the SF Clearwater fulfill the needs of skilled paddlers. To prove that this is a destination run, I have attached an email

chain from a Boise kayaking club about a trip to specifically run the SF Clearwater.

As I indicated, I hope that you keep all 89 streams in the final suitability report. At the very least, I strongly urge you to keep the five I have listed above.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Many thanks,
Matthias Fostvedt

P.S. I have attached pictures of Lolo Creek, John's Creek, and the SF Clearwater.