

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/28/2019 11:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service evaluation team,

Thank you for providing an opportunity for the public to participate in this process. I grew up in the city of Chicago and never truly experienced a wild place in the USA until I moved west to Idaho 5 years ago. Since moving to Idaho, I have spent the majority of my time playing on the Sawtooth and Salmon-Challis National Forest. These two forests have taught me so much. From my first hike in the North Slope Pioneers to climbing Borah to admiring the Lemhi range from afar, I have learned how important these areas are ecologically. The Pioneers region provides excellent habitat and connectivity for wildlife (e.g. elk, mule deer, pronghorn, wolves) passing through this geographically diverse landscape. The Borah area contains the highest peaks in Idaho, including Borah Peak. Borah is one of the few state highpoints in the West without wilderness protection. The Lemhis contain 118 peaks above 10,000 feet, and the fragile alpine life zone in the Lemhis is home to more than 200 types of plants. These areas have been managed as wilderness for years, preserving their exceptional wilderness characteristics. Less than 5% of the Entire US is designated as wilderness. As our climate continues to change these areas will be even more important. I support permanently protecting them as wilderness for our future.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input on a couple places that are near and dear to my heart. These places deserve protection!

Betsy Ann Mizell