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Organization: Powell QRU and SAR

Title: President

Comments: March 23, 2020

Nez Perce/Clearwater National Forest

RE: Nez Perce/Clearwater NF Forest Plan Revision # 44089

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today as an outdoor enthusiast, wife, mother, emergency medical technician, search and rescue personnel, and mid 50[rsquo]s female who has a very active outdoor lifestyle with my family, and so very blessed to live in the Clearwater National Forest and enjoy all the glorious beauty she has to offer.

My family, (husband, our two children (19 & 17)) and myself have grown up on this forest, and have learned not only how to respect the Clearwater National Forest but how to tend to her, preserve her, all while enjoying her.

Our children are extreme snow sport enthusiasts ranked high in the Rocky Mountain Snowmobile Hill Climb Association. They learned all of their skills practicing in the Great Burn regions of the Clearwater National Forest. What was originally family rides (their ages 5 and 7) hoping to see some of the most beautiful parts of our forest turned into, Mom and Dad now watching them with pride, winning races and knowing they found that love for the outdoors and this sport while in our very back yard.

During the other seasons of the year on the Clearwater National Forest my family enjoys many outdoor activities such as: hiking in the wilderness, hunting, fishing, ATV/UTV riding, Mountain biking, etc. We also develop lands and manage over 1,900 acres adjacent and within the Clearwater Nez Perce National Forest.

We are proud to be stewards of the lands as well. We make a family effort to weekly do something to improve the longevity and accessibility of the forest. We often-clear roads of wind fall, do large scale mountain-road trash clean up, plant trees, volunteer for USFS projects, etc. We also help manage the search and rescue efforts in our region including the management of the QRU.

Being in these specific woods more than most, we strongly believe wintertime-motorized use of these lands needs to be kept open.

We see NO negative impacts to allowing snow machines access to these lands.

We also believe the USFS needs to consider the economic loss to the region by shutting down access to these lands at a time the sport is growing exponentially and for all age classes and genders. This is truly good family time and use of this PUBLIC forest.

Please re-open the Great Burn Area to wintertime snowmobile use so that families like ours can continue to enjoy this spectacular region. We hope and pray our grandchildren[rsquo]s children get to enjoy this area like we have been able to.

Thank you for your consideration.

Leigh Ann Bledsoe

Neighbor & Landowner in Clearwater National Forest

Powell QRU, EMT/President