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Comments: Emailing: Image (144).jpg

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the DEIS for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Land Management Plan

ATTACHED COMMENT BELOW

April 14, 2020

Mr. Peterson:

As you are aware, the National Forests were originally envisioned as working forests with multiple objectives:

- To improve and protect the forest;
- To secure favorable watershed conditions, and
- To furnish a continuous supply of timber.

Inluding the latest 2015-2020 goals:

To sustain our Nation's Forests and Grasslands and deliver benefits to the public, more specifically timber sales and other removals of forest products to foster resilient, adaptive ecosystems, to mitigate climate change, mitigate wildfire risk, and strengthen communities.

Although these goals are admirable, the Nez Perce-Clearwater LMP currently under review will be ineffective, and dangerous to the health of the forests and wildlife due to the following omissions:

Quantifiable standards for maintaining healthy species, and scientifically-based climate changes and the benefits of trees vs. harvest using measurable standards.

As a 10-year member of the Friends of the Clearwater, and over 30-year residents of Idaho, I am extremely concerned that these national forests are being threatened by human activities causing irreversible degradation of beautiful and rich wildlife and landscapes.

As our national population grows and the demand for forest products to support the population increases, the greater the threat to these forests and the loss of native habitat for fish or grizzly bears and water quality for animal and human use. Further, the loss of magnificent trees to short-term economic development activities jeopardizes our clean air and critical defense against global warming.

We must be able to weigh and measure the difficult balance of human wildlife uses of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests by utilizing quantifiable and measurable standards, not ignoring them. I urge you to develop and adopt objective benchmarks that we can all utilize to determine the health of the irreplaceable Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.