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Comments: ATTACHMENT BELOW Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. I write today expressing my concerns and support of parts of the Forest Service's alternatives as presented in the Draft EIS for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest, Forest Plan Revision. I specifically support the proposals of increased timber harvest, sustained livestock grazing options, and no additional designations of any type. It is disconcerting to me that the Forest Service has moved away from economic and social considerations over the last few decades and this DEIS document still reflects this bias. There are environmental components in this DEIS that reflect a much higher degree of importance than economic and social considerations of neighboring communities. For example, road-less area analysis, Wild and Scenic River analysis and proposed wilderness designations. This bias to me will just put more restrictions on the forest and give environmental groups more fuel to litigate. In addition, this bias would put restrictions on timber harvesting, grazing, recreation, mining etc. What is needed is a plan that lifts restrictions, not one that puts more restrictions in place. The Forest Service has moved away from managing the forest which was not the intent of forest management before the NFMA of 1976. Starting in 1976, the Forest Service has gradually moved away from active multiple use management in favor of ecological sustainability. What this has gotten us, is dying, diseased forests ripe for wildfires and insect infestations. We in the Pacific Northwest and Western Montana have been smoked out 4 of the last 5 summers due to wildfire activity in the western forests. The blame is being placed on climate change which is a convenient scapegoat to divert the attention away from the real problem. The amount of timber being cut off the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest is a pittance compared to the sustained yield of the forest. Significant increases in timber harvest on the forest will not only reduce wildfire hazards and smoke-outs, but will energize local economies by providing high-paying jobs and increasing local tax revenues for schools, highways etc. Some of the listed alternatives (W and X) in the Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest (NPCNF) Draft EIS support active forest management and timber sales approaching sustained forest yields (241 million board feet annually) over the next 20 years. According to the Draft EIS, close to 2500 new jobs in the region could be possible with this level of forest activity which would potentially require the re-building of several mills that were closed in the area over the last few decades. This would be an almost 10-fold increase in timber coming off the NPCNF national forest over the average of the last two decades. The benefits of active forest management to local communities should be considered in all forest plan revisions because it is good for the local and regional economies. Logs come out of the forest in two ways [ndash] they are either harvested sustainably to improve the health and resilience of the forest (while creating jobs), or they are burned to the ground or left standing for insect fodder. Jobs matter and timber production and processing has been a cornerstone of rural forest communities in years past. Fortunately, for all, these economic benefits go hand in hand with our goal of healthy forests by providing good paying jobs and contributing to the local tax base. Timber dependent counties in Idaho have significant amounts of federal land within their borders, thus limiting their taxable land base. The way forward to achieving healthy timber communities is for the Forest Service to actively manage its forests. I support significant increases in annual timber production in the final EIS. Idaho and the general public benefit from our national forests when they are properly managed and used. As one who uses the federal lands, I understand the need to actively manage these lands and resources. With the increased risk of wildfires that we have seen in recent years, I expect the same attention to resource management by the federal agencies. Wildfires release tremendous amounts of carbon, not to mention particulates dangerous to breathing-impaired people. Clean air, healthy forests, and healthy economies go hand in hand and are a win-win for everyone. I support the active management of our national forests, including such activities as grazing and timber harvest. I ask the Forest Service to revise the forest management plan to fully embrace the principle of multiple-use and reject further proposals of Wilderness or Wild & Scenic River designations. Date Submitted: April 16, 2020