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First name: Anon

Last name: kelmstrom@blackfoot.net

Organization:

Title:

Comments: NPCLW/DEIS Comment

See attachment.

ATTACHMENT BELOW

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest Plan Revision/ DEIS Comment

April 17, 2020 I support a no action, semi-primitive motorized area for the Hoodoo area. I am not in favor of Hoodoo being an RWA. Also, North Fork Spruce-White Sands and Sneakfoot Meadows which has historically been accessed by snowmobilers in the past hopefully won't be an RWA. Reasons for semi-primitive motorized area: Allows for greater dispersion of snowmobilers on the Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest. Backcountry snowmobiling is a smoother riding experience as opposed to riding on groomed roads. Groomed roads become bumpy within a day. Human benefits of a semi-primitive motorized area: Getting together with friends who you don't see during summer months, relaxation, and exercise (Technical riding increases strength). Educational: Gaining knowledge of topography, tree species, and geology can be attained in a one day outing in a semi-primitive motorized area. Winter recreationists (snowmobilers included) are in tune with the backcountry on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest and would maintain the character of the Hoodoo backcountry in a semi-primitive motorized area. Economics: Businesses benefit in towns that are in close proximity to the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. Winter recreationists spend money, small businesses pay taxes, public schools receive money from businesses, road infrastructure gets maintained, and jobs are sustained. In return, local residents are able to live in a small town atmosphere, drive a short distance, and recreate on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. As winter ebbs into spring and summer, snow melts, snowmobile tracks become null, and vegetation pops up. Hooved animals then trek back to the high country for food and shelter with predators in tow. I have never seen a snowmobiler harass wildlife. Recent photos and videos posted early April 2020 on the internet of mountain goats standing on a road in the Hoodoo Pass area are examples of mountain goats not being impacted by snowmobilers. Photo and video contain pickup trucks with snowmobile ramps and mountain goats standing near. These mountain goats appear to be curious and calm in the photo and video. We are all stewards of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest and respect the splendor it offers. Thanks for letting the public get involved in this long process to achieve an outcome that we can all benefit from. Kevin Elmstrom