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Comments: See Attached

ATTACHMENT BELOW

April 20, 2020

Nez Perce [ndash] Clearwater Nation Forest
Forest Plan Revision Comments

Kent Oliver
President Magic Valley ATV Riders Inc.
Twin Falls, Idaho

As the president of the Magic Valley ATV Riders Inc., an organized Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) user group of over 200 members, I represent to you our organization opposes any action that increases Wilderness Acres in Idaho. Furthermore, we feel it is inappropriate to manage Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) and Wild Scenic Rivers (WSR) as if they were Congressionally mandated wilderness areas.

It is abundantly clear the OHV community is growing. Many small Idaho Communities rely on all kinds of recreational activities to prosper and stay alive. In a report published by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation in 2018, the OHV community brings into Idaho nearly one-billion dollars in equipment, fuel, food, and lodging. Additionally, nearly \$543 million is brought in through employment.

The Nez Perce-Clearwater NF states [ldquo]Forest Service[rsquo]s Draft Revised Land Management Plan Enhances Long-Term Forest Health, Creates Regional Jobs[rdquo]. When wilderness areas are created and expanded, communities who rely on motorized recreation suffer. The added income and lost jobs eventually lead to community decline. We have seen this happen in several areas of Idaho and surrounding states. So how does removing acreage from motorized travel help the Nez Perce-Clearwater NF create jobs?

Our organization spends hundreds of personnel hours working on trails, trailheads, and recreational areas. We believe in giving back to the communities and public land managers. Every year we hear the Federal, State, and Local land managers discussing the loss of trail maintenance funding and personnel. We have seen the effects of this decline and strive to assist as we can to see trails get the necessary maintenance and repairs. We do this for the safety of our OHV community and ALL OTHER USERS. We clearly understand and encourage multiple users on trails and public lands. It is saddening to see not only the loss of motorized access but the lack of support towards maintaining non-motorized trails.

Motorized Access has many benefits. Motorized roads and trails allow for access to non-motorized trail networks for maintenance, rescue operations, and fire suppression. When I hear roads and trails being decommissioned, I often wonder if our Public Land Managers even consider the significance of history. The Great Burn in the early 1900[rsquo]s is only the beginning. Every year, across our nation hundreds of thousands of public and private land acres and structures are burned due to wildland fires. In many of these cases we hear firefighters could not access the fire areas effectively, if at all. Nearly every burn area previously had roads and trails removed for various reasons. Many of the same roads and trails not only provided for recreational access but were created to aid in forest and land management, including fire suppression.

As I look at who the OHV users are, I see various age groups. I see groups who prefer single track trails, groups who enjoy the 50-inch or less, and those who just want to get out and enjoy Idaho's scenic vistas. Enjoying Idaho's Public Lands is a common theme among all recreational users. A theme that should NEVER put one user against another user. Every recreationist chooses how, where, and the why they want to recreate to the full enjoyment of Idaho's Public Lands. There are many motorized users who due to physical limitations would not be able to enjoy Idaho's Scenic Back Country. I know and myself included have traveled and plan to take extended OHV trips in and around Idaho's Public Lands. These trips take riders around and along access corridors through wilderness and wilderness study areas. Expanding Wilderness areas and Wild Scenic River areas will greatly disrupt these trips for current and future generations.

Recreational Access on public lands is a right for ALL USERS and should be managed as such. Every year members of our club, their families and friends venture out to new areas. They seek new camping and riding opportunities for the purpose of enjoying Idaho's Public Lands. Locking up Public Lands to a select few individuals for questionable intentions is drastically taking away from the recreational users who contribute more economic dollars and jobs to the state. As motorized users we demand more motorized riding access and in some cases the return of lost motorized trails and roads.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kent Oliver, President
Magic Valley ATV Riders Inc.