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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Public Comments

ATTACHMENT BELOW

Mr. Peterson:I have a grave concern for the preservation of Idaho's forests, wildlands, and wilderness areas, as well as the fish and wildlife which depend on this habitat. A comprehensive forest plan will have far-reaching and long-term impact on our natural Idaho environment. For instance, the opening of logging operations in previously unlogged areas will necessitate the development of roads, which in turn degrades the water quality of streams and rivers, and destroys habitat for fish and wildlife. Logging also has an adverse impact on the sequestration of carbon, thereby contributing to global warming (yes, it is real).I would like to see: The Forest Service recommend 1.5 million acres be protected as wilderness areas or roadless areas, including Gospel-Hump and Weitas Creek.I would like to see: Serious attention given to maintaining water quality, and preserving wildlife and fish habitat, through quantitative, enforceable, and non-discretionary standards.I would like to see: The protection of historic grizzly habitat to facilitate their recovery in these areas.I would like to see: The prohibition of mining and speculative exploratory activities in National Forests. The record of mining operations on public lands is dismal. Mining companies typically extract their riches, then disappear - declaring bankruptcy and leaving the taxpayers to restore the land and foot the bill for the cleanup.I've lived in Idaho since age one - some 74 years. There is a lot of Idaho's National Forests that I've seen over those many years, and there remains much more that I hope to see, and hope that it will be preserved for others in the future. These National Forests are a treasure that we need to protect and respect, as our population grows and we are subjected to increasing developmental pressures. Once relaxed, it is likely impossible to recover.Our climate, wildlife and fish habitat are rapidly degrading. Responsible management today is imperative for our future. Please do your part by establishing a new Forest Plan which contains quantitative, accountable, and enforceable standards. The Friends of the Clearwater has developed a "Citizens Alternative" as a guide for serious consideration. Please regard these points as a voice of concern from those of us who cherish the wild - it's forests, water, flora and fauna. Thank you for your service, and for giving the public an opportunity to voice our concerns.