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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Zack, Sorry to bother you, but I tried emailing my comments to the : sm.fs.spr_npclw@usda.gov , but it was returned. So I am hoping if I send it to you , you can send it to the correct box. Thank yo for your help.

Roberta (Ronnie) Graham

ATTACHMENT BELOW

April 20, 2020 There are many reasons to protect the North and South Forks of the Salmon River and lands within the NezPerce Clearwater Forest Service boundaries. Lands protected from motorization, and mining seem to dwindle each year; (motorization provides easy access for increased mining activity which is fraught with potential for negative impacts to water and land disturbance). Snowmobilers already have plenty of areas to enjoy their sport. Snowmobilers and now the trend of snow bikes that are equally loud with the added negative impact of being able to highline at even higher elevations /slopes not accessable by snowmobiles, are a huge detriment to wildlife. In particular mountain goats and wolverines. Once allowed, there is no turning back. Many wildlife species will be negatively impacted. Wilderness designation as well as Scenic river designations are all the more important with the increased pressures and actions of the current administration to reduce, and in some cases eliminate, numerous laws that protect our clean water, air, and wild places. Such recent actions as expanding hunting access and within wildlife refuges is just another example of the far reaching destructive implications and short term vision of the current administration. Therefore, I would like you to support actions to designate the Mallard Larkins , Great Burn and Meadow Creek as wilderness. Our family has spent many a summer backpacking in the Mallard Larkins. The fact that it is non-motorized has made it all the more appealing as a place to enjoy camping, fishing & splashing in the lakes, huckleberry picking, and watching the mountain goats and moose. This is an area already quite accessible by foot as demonstrated by our children when they were only 8 years old. Similarly, we would like to see the Great Burn area designated as wilderness, and continued closure of this area to all snowmobiles and snowbikes. One of the most compelling reason beyond conserving dwindling wild areas is that it is one of the few remaining habitats for wolverine, as well as lynx and mountain goats. This is a critical migration area for key wildlife populations. Once again, such wild spaces are dwindling. Once gone, they will not return. (Think prairie grass habitat that will never support the lush native populations of the past no matter how long efforts to restore it are done.) While we have only hiked in the Meadow Creek area once. I support this as Wilderness as well for all the same reason as above as well as a special note for the importance of this area as one for fish habitat. As the importance of protecting any headwaters as the source of our most pure water, which is an increasing rarity. Wilderness is not something we can regain once lost. Lastly, I would like to support the designation of the North Fork and South Fork Clearwater Rivers [lsquo]wild and scenic[rsquo]. I recognize this is particularly controversial in light of the [ldquo]wild and scenic rivers[rdquo] designation on the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River and its tributary, the Lochsa River was used prevent the transport of megaload oil refinery equipment along Highway 12, thereby eliminating potential, short term, financial gain to poor rural communities. On the flip side to that argument is that the designation protected the Lochsa river from a potential oil /gas spill when trucks far too large for the narrow, windy road traveled this stretch of river with the significant potential of flipping into the clean, Lochsa river (headwaters of the Middle fork of the Clearwater) headwaters. One truck crashing into the river would have deposited oil/gas and other hazardous materials into the river, having long term negative affects to the currently clean water, cutthroat and bull and trout fish populations and downstream fish hatchery all of which provide long term benefits to these same rural communities. I like that current plan has quantifiable standards that are needed to protect fish habitat; (such as a

300 foot stream buffer). I would also like to ensure a dam would not be able to be built along this stretch. There are already four dams that pose conflicting arguments as to their benefits versus damages. You cannot put too large a price tag on the protection of our nations remaining clean water which begin at the headwaters. Thank you for your consideration of my comments. I appreciated the Forest Service taking the time to present the plan in Moscow back in February. Sincerely, Roberta Graham