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First name: Todd

Last name: Butts

Organization:

Title:

Comments: This comment is relative to the Nez-Perce Clearwater NF's Forest Plan Revision #44089 Draft ROD

Comment: All of the motorized over the snow access for the Great Burn RWA , and all other areas on the NP-CW NF that is provided in the Draft ROD needs to be included in the Final ROD. There should be no reduction in snowmobile access in the Final ROD that is not fully supported by the best available science and facts. To my knowledge there is presently NO science that supports the assertions that snowmobiles are detrimental to either wildlife or vegetation in this area. Any claims being made that snowmobiles are detrimental to wildlife and/or vegetation are completely unsubstantiated and unproven by science. These claims are being made by people/groups who oppose motorized access of all kinds in our National Forest Lands. Please continue to manage our lands based on science and facts, and not the emotions of people/groups who oppose motorized/mechanized access to our National Forest Lands. Thank you.

Todd Butts

Date: January 12, 2023

To: Nez-Perce Clearwater National Forest.

From: Todd Butts

Subject: Comments on Nez-Perce Clearwater NFS Forest Plan Revision #4089 Draft ROD.

I would like to take this opportunity to motorized over the snow vehicle access to the Great Burn RWA provided in the Draft ROD. First I would like to say that all motorized over the snow access to NP CW NF lands provided in the Draft ROD, should remain in place in the Final ROD. I have ridden the Great Burn area for 20+ years, and would like to express to you that I would like the winter recreational opportunities to remain unchanged in this area. The Great Burn Area is unique for snowmobilers as well as other winter recreationist in the variety of opportunities that it offers.

The great burn offers great solitude, unique challenges, and outstanding scenery for all winter recreation users. I

have heard rumors in Forest Service literature of perceived [ldquo]user conflicts[rdquo] in this area, but in 20+ years I have never witnessed one. I occasionally see cross country skiers and snowshoers using the area, but there has never been a [ldquo]conflict[rdquo] on any level. When we meet on a trail, both users have been both kind and courteous.

While snowmobiling, although we see numerous signs of wildlife including; snowshoe hares, marten, wolverine, Canada Lynx, and occasionally bears. Although we see these signs, we rarely see any wildlife due to the time of year we are using the area. As far as I know there is no documented research that snowmobiling is detrimental to any wildlife species endangered, threatened, or otherwise.

With NO documented user conflicts, NO documented negative impacts to wildlife species, and NO documented resource damage occurring as a result of snowmobiling in the Great Burn Area, my only conclusion can be that why in the world is the Clearwater National Forest proposing increased restrictions on snowmobiling in the Great Burn Area.

In conclusion, I am 100% opposed to ANY increased restrictions on recreational use in the Great Burn Area, motorized or otherwise, until such time as sound scientific evidence has been presented which accurately documents resource damage occurring from motorized winter recreation.

Respectfully

Todd Butts