

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/17/2024 10:39:08 PM

First name: Matt

Last name: Radlowski

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Leanne Marten (or respective reviewing officer),

My name is Matt Radlowski and I am writing to convey support for the Preferred Alternative during the objection period based on my standing as having submitted formal comment during the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest Land Management Plan Revision process. My initial letter was submitted on April 20th, 2020.

To begin, I appreciate the extensive effort given by the planning team to balance best available science with diverse stakeholder input. While I can find some things about this plan that I disagree with; overall, the plan reflects compromise in many areas including balancing recommended Wilderness with requests for mountain bike access. As a lifelong mountain biker and supporter of protecting our nation's wildlands, I view this balance positively.

As such, I am pleased to see your recommendation to install a 150-foot corridor along the Stateline Trail #738 to allow for non-motorized mountain bike access. This is a reasonable and creative approach to containing potential user impacts to the trail while allowing for continuation of non-motorized bicycle travel. Thank you for making this decision as it was requested by myself and numerous other mountain bikers during the plan engagement period. I also appreciate the decision to adjust the boundary of the northern part of the Hoodoo Recommended Wilderness in a way that will allow mountain bikers to again access the Goose Creek and Goose Ridge trails. This decision allows for mountain bike access to return to the northern section of the Great Burn while also preserving 108,276 acres of the Hoodoo recommended Wilderness. This was another request I expressed in my initial comments in 2020.

It is important to me that people continue to have a range of opportunities to access and enjoy National Forests. The benefits are numerous including potential for adventure, personal development and most critically, a greater appreciation of the natural world. There are a limited number of true wild, raw, and challenging alpine and backcountry trails both open and suitable for bike travel in our region. In recent years, these opportunities have been reduced as several long-distance routes in the Northern Rockies have been closed to bike travel through management policy. Again, I am very appreciative that Nez Perce-Clearwater forest planning team took the time to listen to the mountain biking community preserved bike access to the Stateline Trail while also recommending 263,357 acres of Wilderness on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. I would like this plan to move forward as it is written.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Matt Radlowski