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First name: Robert

Last name: Heacock

Organization: Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Inc.

Title:

Comments: Hi, attached are comments for the Objection Officer of the recent Nez Perce -Clearwater National Forest Plan released November 28, 2023.

I tried to use the link in the email of that date to submit comments, but it does not work

I am also this by regular US mail

Thanks

Robert Heacock

PNW Chapter- Lewis and Clark

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January 25, 2024

Objection Reviewing Officer

USDA Forest Service Northern Region

26 Fort Missoula Road

Missoula, Montana 59804

RE: Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Land Management Plan

Dear Objection Reviewing Officer:

Thank you for providing the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. (LCTHF) information on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Land Management Plan (Plan). We are interested in submitting our comments on this matter, and we appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the Plan process.

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. (LCTHF) is a national organization established in 1969 and dedicated to preserving the historic accuracy of the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and protecting the cultural and historic integrity of the landscapes through which the Expedition traveled from 1803-1806. We currently have about 1,000 members organized in 22 local chapters across the country. Our membership comes from all walks of life who share a common passion for passing along the lessons that can be learned from this important era of our nation's history to future generations. This includes preservation of the landscape through which the Expedition traveled.

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail was designated by Congress in the National Trails System Act, (P.L. 90-543, as amended through P.L. 111-11, March 30, 2009 and the succeeding John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act signed on March 12, 2019). It is 4,900 miles long and is officially recognized from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania to Fort Clatsop, Oregon. The trail is one of 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails in the collection of long-distance trails in our National Trails Systems.

We have been provided information that indicates the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Land Management Plan would have a significant and negative effect on the Lolo Trail areas that are within the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Our organization has inspected the area of the proposed Forested area and we agree that the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Land Management Plan may have a detrimental effect on the Lolo Trail viewshed and areas that are within the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

This portion of the Lolo Trail is of course, an integral part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and as such is entitled to certain protections. There are numerous significant Expedition locations and campsites in the area from approximately September 13, 1805 to Approximately September 22, 1805, and on the return during the last half of June, 1806.

In addition, we believe that the legal corridor is inadequate and should be expanded to include the various access routes, and restricts recreational access to the Nez Pece (NeeMePoo) National Historic Trail.

The significance and importance of the integrity of the Lolo Trail Corridor and its environs cannot be overstated.

Because the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Land Management Plan will have a negative effect of the viewshed and access of significant locations on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, we feel that any and all efforts to mitigate the effect of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Land Management Plan including the project not being authorized or approved, should be undertaken.

Sincerely,

James Sayce

President, LCTHF

Bill Bronson

Interim Executive Director, LCTHF

Robert Heacock

Chairman,

LCTHF Trail Stewardship Committee

LCTHF Washington Chapter Officer