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First name: Ron

Last name: Hartig

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Forest Planning Team
Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest
1008 ID 64
Kamiah, Idaho 83536
Dear Forest Planning Team,
In response to the draft record of decision for the revised Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest Plan:
I am in agreement with:
1. Timber production, I am very hopeful that targets can be met. I believe forest health and use of burning at correct times will not pollute the water and will create browse for deer and elk.
2. Re-opening Fish Lake. It should never have been closed.
3. Winter motorized recreation in the Great Burn area.
4. Increases in summer motorized recreation, it could be expanded.
I object to:
1. Mining was not fully represented in the ROD. Mining Districts were not honored. The Ankerite Belt encompasses the Great Burn area. Information regarding this immense resource that has not yet been tapped is excluded. During the Clearwater Basin Collaborative, specific, verifiable information was presented that proved rare earth elements and crucial minerals were present along with gold and various other minerals.
References: Mineral Resources of the Kelly-Cayuse, Study Area, Shoshone, Clearwater, and Idaho Counties, Idaho. Including Portions of Hoodoo, Moose Mountain, Bighorn-East Weitas, and Weir-Post Office Creek Roadless areas. (MLA 15-92)
United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey, Mineral Resource Studies of National Forest Roadless Areas in Idaho. Compiled by Kathleen M. Johnson and Ronald G. Worl. Open-File Report 91-589.
Oro Search Exploration Site Specific Idaho Gold Locations 1998 One-Search Exploration.
The Wild and Scenic River designation puts an end to all placer and restricts hard rock mining by limiting access options to the area and close to the river." wild designation would place restrictions on future development activities within the view shed of the river."
"Designation under the Wild and Scenic River Act could affect and possibly constrain ground disturbing activities within a corridor¹⁴ mile on either side of the river, and possibly the entire watershed or river viewing area."
Fear that mining would degrade the area is unfounded. BMPs regulated by State and Federal agencies accomplish this purpose.
Reference: Minerals and Geology Resource Assessment, North Fork of the Clearwater River Wild and Scenic River Study. (1993)
2. The Rhodes Peak Natural Resource study area is very mineralized, referred to as Rhodes Peak Graben. It should not be part of a study area because it lies within the boundaries of the Blacklead Mining District.
3. Certain groups should not have any more influence than others, all entities should participate in the collaborative with equal say.
4. There are adequate numbers of grizzly bear and wolves on the forest, designated use areas for them is not necessary.
5. The preferred method of input on the ROD was through web mail. It disenfranchises those who are not computer savvy. They had to rely on others willing to "look up" the ROD on line. Perhaps even creative ideas that would be beneficial are not generated due to the constraints of this methodology.
Sincerely,
Ronald W. Hartig
cc. Senator James Risch
Senator Mike Crapo
Representative Russ Fulcher