

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/23/2024 8:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: January 23, 2024

Regional Forester (Reviewing Office) Northern (R1) Regional Office

Attn: Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Plan Objection 26 Fort Missoula Road

Missoula, MT 59804

Dear Regional Forester:

I would like to provide some background information before beginning my objections to the proposed Forest Plan. My nuclear family, many friends, and I have fished, camped, hiked¹ picked huckleberries and foraged for mushrooms in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest for approximately four decades. This beautiful and wild country is a primary reason that I continue to live in northern Idaho.

The amount of land recommended for wilderness designation is far too small. A mere 17% of the approximately acres of roadless lands in both forests, Gedney Creek should be added. It is an important tributary of the Wild and Scenic Selway River. Fish Creek should be added. It is some of the best steelhead habitat in the forests. The Cove-Mallards region should be added. It was originally recommended as part of Senator Church's River of No Return Wilderness plan in the late 1970s. It is time to act now. The Kelly Creek/Great Burn has been reduced by half.

It should be returned to its original designation. The Meadow Creek area should be doubled. As I recall this area has been considered for wilderness designation since the 1980s. The Elizabeth Lakes country should be added to the Mallard-Larkins area.

The Weitas Creek and Cayuse Creek areas should be designated as wilderness.

The plan must contain more measurable and enforceable protections for old growth. At a minimum maintaining the numerical standards contained in the 1987 plans.

Protections for aquatic habitat should not be weakened. The reduction of stream buffers proposed in this plan would cause serious harm to salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey, bull trout, and Westslope cutthroat trout.

The proposal to greatly increase logging is completely unacceptable. Logging leads to building roads which are a permanent scar on the landscape, and often lead to erosion which causes serious harm to aquatic plants, insects, fish and the other wildlife which depend on them. In addition, we need these trees to help keep the air we

breathe and the atmosphere cleaner.

The proposal to allow bicycles on the Stateline trail must be eliminated. I cannot imagine hiking in this remote, pristine area and meeting a bike r[micro]shing around a corner at me. This type of interaction could be especially dangerous for parties with horses as well.

Sign, Eric L. Jensen