

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/5/2014 12:00:00 AM

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Title:

Comments: Great Burn - Edited.docx

Here are my comments regarding management proposals for motorized vehicles in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest.

What I think of the Great Burn Wilderness Proposal and the option to put motorized vehicles in the Great Burn Proposed Wilderness.

I am a 4th generation Montanan who loves experiencing everything the great outdoors has to offer . Although I am an amateur, I have logged , farmed, fished, and hunted in Montana and Idaho and in the Great Burn Pproposed Wwilderness. I have also rode ridden motorcycles and four-4 wheelers and snow mobiles. I have been a back packer since 6th grade when I hiked into Trail Lake with my boy scout troop from Superior, Montana. I have also snow- shoed and back country skied in the Great Burn. I have experienced Montana from both sides of the wilderness and motorized vehicle issue .

In theThe Lolo National Forest, the Nez Pierce National Forest, and in the Missoula and Mineral Counties, we have contain many roads and trails for both trucks, four-4 wheelers, motorcycles, and snow mobiles. If you fly in an air plane over the Bitterroot Mountains, no matter how many times you fly over the Bitterroots and no matter how many directions you cross them, one thing is for sure: the only thing that has not been significantly altered by humans is a very small area called the Great Burn. Cities, farms, interstates, lumber mills, mines, airports, shopping centers, car lots, rail roads, logging roads, clear cuts, and forest roads combine to occupy the majority of the land. We need small areas such as the Great Burn to remind of us how the world used to be, and how the relationship between humans and nature used to be.

Preserving the Great Burn would remind people of This was a time when humans could rely on living off the land by hunting, because not very many humans existed, but lots of animals existedanimals were more numerous than humans. In 1900 , the goal of humans was to tame and conquer nature and the wilderness. In 2014, wWe have accomplished that task . However, at the current rate of development, we now run the risk of our beloved The frontier and wilderness may becoming a lost tradition . I believe that preserving a small area like the Great Burn is like preserving the canary in the coal mine. We need to know what a healthy world looks like so we don't irreversibly destroy the very planet that we depend on for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

In 1974 I hiked the Great Burn from Hoo Doo Pass to Goose Lake and encountered a mountain goat. In June 2014 I hiked form Hoo Doo Pass to Siamese Lakes, on that same trail, braving similar Bitterroot snow drifts that Meriweather Lewis feared as the most dangerous portion of the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1804, by which they and their horses almost starved to death.. Bitterroot snow drifts that almost starved them and their horses to death, threatening to engulf them entirely. I almost died too. Just like Lewis and Clark, I never saw another human, but I encountered what was probably that same mountain goat's off spring in the same spot on the state line trail at Hidden Lake not more than 15 yards from me. It seemed the goat had never seen another human because he stared at me for the longest time before satisfying his curiosity, and proceeding on down the state line trail .

Hiking, for me, is a time to escape from the chaos of everyday life; a time to unwind and recharge. One hot summer I hiked from Hoo Doo pass to Clear Water Crossing via Fish Lake. Nothing was more disappointing, Oon that 90 degree day, just as I settled down to enjoy the cool water of Fish Lake, to then hearI heard a four4 wheeler making it's way into the lake up from the Idaho side, breaking the serene silence of the mountain lake; nothing was more disappointing. My four4 wheeler friends would say "sucks to be me", but that is just the way I

am when it comes to experiencing the frontier the way it was.

Some would say, by not allowing motorized vehicles in to the Great Burn, you are restricting the rights of others and threatening businesses. To be clear, I am not an opponent of motorized vehicle usage. As I previously mentioned, I have ridden motorcycles, four-wheelers, and snow mobiles. I simply believe that there already exists a sufficient amount of roads and trails and I can assure you that there are plenty of places in The Lolo National Forest, The Nez Pierce National Forest, and in the Missoula and Mineral Counties, trails which do not intrude upon the Great Burn, that for myself and others can still to navigate our motorized vehicles on. And Additionally, the motorized vehicle businesses don't do not appear to be threatened, either if you consider there are as many dealerships as wilderness areas. Therefore, I believe that the preservation of one of the last truly untouched wilderness areas, the Great Burn, can be achieved without any threat to businesses or individual rights.

There is aAnother reason to preserve the Great Burn: economic diversity. As known, the agriculture, logging, and mining industries have their ups and downs depending on supply and demand. By having one more industry such as Great Burn tourism, you can have a more stable economy in good times and in bad. There are a certain amount of people that use the Great Burn- backpackers, berry pickers, hunters, fisherman, outfitters etc. The key to the success of the Great Burn attracting these people is maintaining lies in the fact that they have a pristine, untouched, quiet place to enjoy when they get to the Great Burn. They spend a significant amount of money in at Montana and Idaho restaurants, gas stations, hotels, and sporting goods stores as they travel here by airport, car, truck, and outfitter's horses to get to adventure into the Great Burn. Thus, if one more industry is needed to support the economy, then add Great Burn tourism.

The above are just a few reasons to support the Great Burn proposed wilderness. I see both sides of the issues : the need to preserve tradition and the frontier, while at the same time maintaining economic diversity. We may have over conquered the frontier, and now it is time to preserve a small portion of it to remain much like it was in the time of Lewis and Clark. Let us' keep the Great Burn as a wild frontier while allowing multiple use including motorized vehicle uses to occur in more appropriate areas.