

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/3/2014 12:00:00 AM

First name: Ira

Last name: Ford

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Proposed Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest Management Plan

As a resident of Spokane, Washington, I have taken interest in the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest plan that will affect the next 10-15 years of forest management. I have taken an interest in the wildlife of the area due to the sensitivity of certain species in the northwest area. The Canada Lynx (Threatened) is a species of interest for me and I would like to see improved habitat in the management plan. I hope that you take my comments into consideration when preparing the DEIS.

Proposed Action for Forest Plan Revision Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

"Every 5 years, prescribe burn 25,000 acres of mapped winter range to promote germination and re-sprouting of preferred winter elk browse species." (FW-OBJ-WL-01 pg. 42) Prescribed burns could destroy Lynx Linkages and fragment range, how will these burns be coordinated with lynx habitats?

"development of 15,000 acres of snow shoe hare winter habitat over the plan period." (FW-OBJ-WL-01 pg. 42)

Do these two areas intersect? Snow shoe hare habitat is listed in the TES document (pg. 12) as a Secondary Habitat for Lynx, will this development be adjacent to existing lynx habitat?

FW-STD-WL-01 Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction (2007)

Does the Management Direction referenced in the DEIS make up the entirety of the plan for action regarding lynx? Or is it just a standard for the actual plan? If the plan is limited to the Management Direction then we would appreciate if there was a specialized lynx management plan for this region.

5.0 Threatened, Endangered, Proposed and Candidate Species - Wildlife - April 5, 2014 "Few studies have examined how lynx react to human presence." (pg. 11) As mentioned in the document, there has not been substantial evidence to show the proximity that a lynx will come to human activity. It also mentions that the studies done indicate that lynx "neither preferred nor avoided forest roads." (pg. 11) We would like to see more research done to analyze whether human incursion into certain critical habitat area might fragment an already strained habitat range. If it is found that lynx shy away from roads and activity more than previous research has shown, it could drastically alter how this plan is formed. Later it mentions that "lynx may avoid some developed ski areas." (pg. 12) This gives an indication that there is cause for concern about human impact on lynx ranges. I would like to see the EIS include research about the Canada Lynx and how human interactions and prescribed burns affect their home range.

Thanks,

Ira Ford