

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/30/2014 12:00:00 AM

First name: Mark

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: RE:Forest Plan Revision Salmon Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

Attached is my comment on the proposed Forest Plan Revision. I have been informed that this might be the incorrect email address. If so, would you please inform me?

thanks,

Mark Wood

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

Supervisor's Office

ATTN: Forest Plan Revision

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RE:Forest Plan Revision Salmon Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

I am an avid snowmobiler in the primary area of the Payette and Boise National Forests. I enjoy riding in the backcountry areas off of the beaten path. This offers me the riding challenges and vast scenic opportunities that I enjoy. There are many aspects of Forest Plan Revision of the Salmon Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forest that I would like to address.

- I support the PROPOSED ACTION that provides for Special Management Areas THAT ALLOWS SNOWMOBILING within the Great Burn RWA
- The Great Burn is one of the few primitive backcountry snowmobile settings still accessible in the lower 48 States and certainly one of the best. There are no groomed access roads or trails and the terrain can be challenging. All of this has great appeal to a certain segment of the snowmobiler community. While some snowmobilers prefer riding on groomed and/or well-defined trails, others want a more primitive experience with a combination of challenge and magnificent scenery.
- Statistics produced by the FS in the ROS portion of the Clearwater Forest Plan Assessment show that snowmobiling access to the Clearwater NF has increased approximately 100 percent between 2006 and 2011, while primitive camping access has remained static (page 21). This clearly demonstrates snowmobiling is a growing recreational activity and demonstrates the need for more access to suitable riding area, not less. At the very least, future management should keep historic riding areas open.
- There are no winter user conflicts in the Great Burn. The only practical way to access the Great Burn in the winter is on a snowmobile. No one who rides the area reports seeing any non-motorized uses.
- Management of Recommended Wilderness Areas as Wilderness is not acceptable. There is no law or policy that requires the Forest Service to do so.
- The Great Burn has been open to snowmobiling for the last 25 years and nowhere have we seen any documentation that the use has had any negative impact on the resources.
- The 2012 Travel Plan ROD states that NO evidence of Lynx was found in the Great Burn Area.
- There is no evidence to support this contention that snowmobiling negatively affects mountain goat populations. Eliminating a legitimate use simply because someone thinks there 'may be' a negative impact is simply not good enough. The American People deserve better than that.

Thank you for considering my comments and I believe that the Great Burn should remain open for snowmobiling.

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