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First name: Sandy

Last name: Podsaid

Organization:

Title: Mr

Comments: *The area is best served to the Public as a "Special Area" listing under the "Idaho Roadless Rules" for management.

To: Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

Supervisor's Office

ATTN: Forest Plan Revision

Electronic: fpr_npclw@fs.fed.us

From: A. T. Sandy Podsaid,

357 Mountain Ridge

Kingston Idaho, 83839

208 682-3399

Re: NP/CW NF Revised Land Management Plan

Date: November 14, 2014

SWORN AFFIDAVIT OF A T Sandy Podsaid

Comes now the affiant, A T Sandy Podsaid, having been duly sworn, say that I am over the age of eighteen and reside in Shoshone County, Idaho.

*I have been a resident of Idaho since 1973.

*I have hunted, fished, run a pack string, a jet boat, vehicles, and flowing over 11 different River drainages within Idaho, I have been in 5 to 6 different wildernesses in Idaho, one in Oregon and one in Wyoming. I have professionally guided over 27 years in Idaho in three years in Oregon.

*I have been an outfitter or guide in Idaho and in the "Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area" for over 27 years.

*In operated my own business, as a professional guide or outfitter in the Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area. I have encountered group sizes of 30 or more individuals, they would include campfire girls, Boy Scouts, hikers, University groups and backcountry Horsemen groups.

*I have made my living 99% of the time in the Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area from 1984 - 2008, I lived in a tent eight months of the year, most of the time. I've spent much of the other time of the year on horseback, ATVs, snowmobiles or pickup trucks traveling the upper St. Joe River area, area surrounding the Upper North Fork River and the Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area.

*In my years of operating as a professional within the Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area, I have watched the trail systems be maintained by the forest service with mechanized equipment, helicopters, dynamite, hand tools and tracked excavation machines. The trail maintenance included, pressure-treated dimensional lumber, helicopterd and packed in, to build bridges and pungent tread work to help protect the fragile environment. I have witnessed probably more than 30 miles with trail being reconstructed or rebuilt to allow access to the many diverse users.

*I have operated as the lead guide of an outfitting operation that has had as many as 40 head of stock, horses and mules, 20 people to include employees and guest in one camp with that amount livestock. In addition to the people and the stock, stock dogs were also present. That meant up to 60+ heartbeats were in the same area at the same time providing guided services under a special use permit to the citizens of the United States, to include guest from many places all over the world. Those foreign guests have come from Germany, Australia, and other countries in Europe. In the years passed those services also included television camera and production crews.

*In those many years I have cleaned trails, cleared culverts, rerouted trails and assisted in making the trail system a safe and passable way for my clients and the public to use.

*I have cut out portions of the trail that it had microbursts, laying down a large number of three-foot diameter hemlocks, stacked on top of each other, that have taken 3 to 4 days to clear. Additionally myself or my crew have cleared large Red Cedars that blocked trails, fallen across trails uphill, and spanned the creeks and trails, in sizes of 10 to 13 feet in diameter.

*Myself or my crew have picked up hundreds of yards of number nine telephone wire, that spanned between lookout towers, when fire towers were manned. There is still many miles of number nine telephone wire in existence within the proposed Mallard Larkins area.

*Although the Mallard Larkins is a wonderful area, when you're on top of the peaks between the forest divide, you can hear the highline whistles from the logging operations to the northwest from Montana and Rutledge Creeks, and to the south and east from operations within the Skull and Collins creek drainages. The additional sounds of the low-flying aircraft, jet aircraft accessing the Spokane airport are quite loud on a quiet day.

*I have witnessed many users in the Mallard Larkins, they are local residents, within maybe 100 miles or more, some understand the need to utilize and bring a small chainsaw, so they can access their trip through the trail networks of the proposed wilderness areas. It would be a shame to limit the volunteer efforts that are accomplished within the trail network, for the Mallard area. I "do not" believe certain individuals or groups who want the wilderness experience of "untrammelled by man" would support any future use of mechanize hand tools. The necessity of mechanized hand tools to include chainsaws, brush saws and/or small motorized jackhammers for trail maintenance, the non-use of these tools would severely restrict the amount of access within this wonderful area.

*My professional and private opinion would be to propose that the Mallard Larkins Pioneer area be listed as a "Special Area" under the Idaho roadless rule. This would achieve the historic use for the users and would fully fit within our heritage of this special area.

*The continued non-motorized use of vehicles has been maintained and part of the Mallard Larkins Pioneer area from approximately 1984, can be and would be, I believe supported by all.

*in 1986 or 87, I was part of a group, as a professional guide took the Friends of the Mallard Larkins, to include James Hagedorn, Evert Hagan, Dennis Baird, Grant Simons, Craig Gerky Idaho Wilderness Society and Dave Johnson of the Lewiston Tribune, into the area. At that time I was in support of the Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area becoming a Wilderness, that was many years ago. I have now adamantly changed my thoughts and position of support of the full designation of "Wilderness". The education that I have acquired 25+ years of operating in a wilderness area and visiting many other wilderness areas in Idaho and in Oregon, have changed that view.

*I've learned that the Forest Service, who is charged with the trail maintenances, within all of those wilderness areas, accomplish very little with the limited budgets that they have available, the short timeframe for the summer seasons and the skill levels of the part-time employees assigned to trail maintenance. To lose, the many volunteers that are willing, to do the work necessary and to have the access throughout area within the backcountry and the use of mechanized equipment is totally essential.

*I was the hunt manager for an outfitting company in the Frank Church Wilderness of the name McKay Bar, I operated five backcountry hunting camps, three backcountry ranches, 100 head of stock, 36 employees, three jet boats and hundreds of square miles within our permitted area.

*The Mallard Larkins Pioneer area, from surveyors Ridge to Canyon work center is only about a 5 to 6 hour horseback ride north to south. One could walk that in maybe less time. This is a very small area compared to most other wilderness areas within Idaho. I have witnessed very minimal use within the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, compared to the Mallard Larkins area that has been used for many years by local residents within Shoshone County and surrounding counties.

*The use of best management practices and educating the public on proper area usage is easily accomplished by the trailhead billboards and information on them.

*In watching the sad decline of the elk populations, within my past outfitted operating area of the upper St. Joe to include the Snow Peak Wildlife Management Area, which is jointly managed by IDFG and the Forest Service, it greatly saddens my heart to witness the decline of these great elk herds, that I've been able to share with many citizens and clients from the United States, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, England, and Germany.

*To watch the negative affects that have come to the backcountry areas, because of the lack of grazing, forest management and current wildlife management practices of the last 20 years, has been the demise of many of are ungulent species. With very limited management and or no access to the predators in these remote areas, the predators become king.

*There are no sections of land large enough in the proposed wilderness area that has not been "trammeled by man or that has no roads or trails".

*The area doesn't meet the integrity of wilderness because of: trail pungents and bridging made of dimensional treated lumber used, the existence of number nine telephone wire, the fact you can hear logging high line horns from/on the peaks from all directions;

*The area is best served to the Public as a "Special Area" listing under the "Idaho Roadless Rules" for management.

If you wish any further information, from my experience within the "Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area" or the upper St. Joe River area, Please feel free to contact me. 208 682-3399

DATED this 14th day of November, 2014