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First name: Andrew

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Organization: Spokane Mountaineers

Title: Conservation Co-chair

Comments:

August 1, 2013

Rick Brazell

Forest Supervisor

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

903 3rd Street

Kamiah, ID 83536

Dear Rick,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Forest Plan Revision for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

The 800 plus members of the Spokane Mountaineers recreate in areas of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests year round as they have for many years. Activities include hiking, camping, backpacking, scrambling, climbing, snowshoeing, ski touring and mountain biking. Our Backpacking School holds a yearly graduation backpack on the Rapid River in the Nez Perce National Forest.

The book, "100 Hikes in the Inland Northwest", written by Rich Landers and the Spokane Mountaineers has sold over 90,000 copies and features seven hikes in the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests: Goose Lake, Goat Lake-Rhodes Peak, Cayuse Creek, Kelly Creek, Pete Ott Lake-Cold Springs Peak, Selway Crags, Snake River-Kirkwood Ranch plus a recommended hike on Trail 20 along Weitas Creek.

We strongly advocate recommended wilderness designation in the Forest Plan Revision for the Mallard-Larkins, Great Burn, Cayuse Creek, Moose Mountain and the Selway-Bitterroot Additions. These pristine areas are valued for their scenery, solitude along with their wilderness characteristics and are visited often by members of the Spokane Mountaineers.

The Mallard-Larkins is an outstanding recreational destination. The area is popular with hikers, backpackers, hunters, fishermen and horsemen seeking a pristine outdoor experience. The Mallard-Larkins have exceptional wilderness characteristics and offer one of the best wilderness experiences on the Clearwater National Forest. The area is contiguous to the Mallard-Larkins recommended wilderness on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

There has been reported winter snowmobile use in the Great Burn area, but that is on 10% or less of the total Great Burn area. At a minimum the 90% of the Great Burn that does not have any historical snowmobile or other motorized use should be recommended wilderness as in the 1987 Forest Plan.

The Spokane Mountaineers Conservation Committee appreciates the opportunity to comment on Forest Plan Revision for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

Sincerely,

Andrew Ashmore

Conservation Co-Chair
Spokane Mountaineers
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