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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the enlarging of wilderness areas within northern Pend Oreille County by the United States Department of Agriculture/Forest Service or any federal agency. I believe the present Salmo-Priest wilderness area boundaries are adequate. Wilderness areas may have a purpose for certain groups or individuals however, a wilderness area is detrimental to sustaining proper forest health and the livelihood of the logging industry as well as foresters and other Forest Service employees. Access to these areas by any other means other than hiking or horse back limits any measures that help the forests to remain healthy. I believe by enlarging the wilderness area would wrongly relieve the United States department of Agriculture/Forest Service from maintaining sustainable forest health, roadway maintenance and fire suppression activities which their agency is mandated to preform. Timber harvesting has been reduced to an alarmingly low level on National Forest land, to the point that our National Forests are becoming infested by insects and diseases that are mostly unchecked. If additional wilderness areas are established our entire National Forest land, as well as state and private land will become infested also. I believe increasing the wilderness area will continue to reduce the livelihood of local residents as well reduce tourism due to limiting access to a larger area of National Forest lands within Pend Oreille County.