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First name: Ellen

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear NP-C,

i write to urge retention of the Great Burn just as it is in your forest plan revision.

i was active for years working in the Great Burn and know its value from hundreds of discussions, repeated review of maps, hundreds of hours of planning and advocating, and many trips into its Backcountry. I know its value as a stand alone hunk of land. I also know it's value on the bigger scheme of things, as a key wildlife corridor, as a large enough hunk to provide healthy habitat for animals who live there, as a reservoir for snow creating downstream seasonal water, as headwaters for streams, as a scientific study area in its pristine ponds and forests. It provides some refuge also against the impacts of climate change.

Further I know that hundreds and hundreds of citizens have valued and loved this place for how it feeds the soul. In our fast paced and increasingly crazy world, full of technology and machines, time to be alone, time to get to a state of mind in which to reflect deeply is increasingly rare.

One of my main concerns is the encroachment of motorized vehicles. Nonononono. No. There are plenty of lands open to snowmobiling and 4wheelers. Do not allow them in the Great Burn.

It is fortunate that the Great Burn Study Group and other responsible advocates are available to help the FS monitor any violations against non motorized designation, even as you face potential budget cuts. This is a huge plus.

Again, please retain the Great Burn in its current status and do not allow motorized use.

Thank you,

Ellen Knight