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First name: Whitney

Last name: Schroeder

Organization:

Title:

Comments: URGENT: On the Draft Wild and Scenic Suitability Report

Dear Nez Perce Clearwater National Forests,

Dear Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest,

My name is Whitney Schroeder. I live in Troy, ID. I have grown up on the Palouse, the Clearwater National Forest and its watersheds my backyard. I have spent endless summer days on the Lochsa and Selway below the falls. First as a young child, during family camping trips, where I learned to fly fish and happily splashed in its cool, clear water. As I grew older, the incredible white water drew me in, demanding respect and awe as paddled with its power. Several of my friends have been married on the sandy banks of the Selway, tied to these special places via the love and respect of the water. I have also spent many hours on tributaries of the Clearwater, fishing the North Fork, backpacking and fishing the Little North Fork (dreaming of paddling it), joining my husband for sunny afternoon floats on the Clearwater or for chilly morning steelhead pursuits. As a teenager, my father and I were able to fly in and fly fish Moose Creek and the Selway. For the first time, I was able to boat the upper Selway several years ago, what a privilege that was! These are just a small sampling of time spent and valued experiences on these water systems.

I am writing to ask that all 89 streams that you have found eligible for Wild and Scenic designation remain protected as eligible in the new forest plan, and to voice my support for their ultimate designation. If you finalize the Draft Suitability Report, I ask that all 89 streams be found suitable in the final report.

Please have keep these treasures safe for current and future generations. Wild places and free flowing rivers have become so rare, yet are vital so much to the ecological function of water systems. I would argue they are also vital to the human psyche, to the American psyche. There are so many examples of watersheds lost, altered by dams and mining, the data is there, the damage is there, the changes difficult to repair (if at all). Why continue to not learn from history? We know what will happen, we know what will be lost. This is a unique opportunity to stand up and save these places. To keep them pure, wild and free. Please, choose to keep these watersheds protected, to keep them free, so we and our children and grandchildren, ect. can continue to enjoy these wild and free places. These places are very much scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural and much more.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Whitney Schroeder

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