

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/4/2018 7:20:35 AM

First name: Darius

Last name: Semmens

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments On Draft Wild and Scenic Suitability Report

Dear Nez Perce Clearwater National Forests,

Dear Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest,

I am a scientist (PhD in watershed management), avid boater, and passionate supporter of wild rivers. I have been floating rivers for most of my life, throughout the U.S. and around the world, and central Idaho is by far my favorite destination. Every year I make the trip from Colorado (beautiful state, but they protected mountains, not rivers) to Idaho to spend time on these rivers. I pay for vehicle shuttles, permits, charter flights, hotels, groceries, gas, meals, and equipment. I am sufficiently bewitched that I recently purchased a cabin on a river in central Idaho.

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.

The Selway River Watershed in particular is the best example of a wild, intact, clear-water river system I have encountered anywhere in the world. I have been lucky enough to float the river five times now and have hiked and fished most of the tributaries. It is incomparable and deserves the highest level of protection we can give it.

It is the rivers and streams that collectively make the NPCNF a national treasure and hold tremendous economic value for the ecosystem goods and services they provide, particularly recreation. This value is driven by the number of beneficiaries and the NPCNF is upstream of the fastest growing region in the country. With outdoor recreation contributing 2% to GDP and growing fast it is not enough to protect one or two rivers, or to protect the main stem and not the tributaries. Every eligible segment should be protected and more should be restored.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Darius Semmens

Evergreen, CO 80439

dardusius@netscape.net