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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wild and Scenic eligibility for Lochsa tributaries

Hi Nez/Clear NF,

I'm writing to voice my support for Wild and Scenic River eligibility for tributaries and the upper section of the Lochsa River. Although your draft suitability report does not identify whitewater kayaking as a recreational ORV for creeks such as White Sands, Big Sands, and Fish Creek, those of us who boat on those creeks value them tremendously, particularly for their wildness and remoteness. The Lochsa owes much of its clear, cold water character to the streams that feed it, especially those flowing out of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. While opponents appear to dismiss protection for these streams partly out of a lack of threat or necessity, as water shortages loom in our future, it seems prudent to protect eligible streams that have documented ORVs now. Your report identifies multiple ORVs present for these streams, and other designated WSRs have already set a precedent for protecting tributaries and headwaters.

While my experience and knowledge are of the Lochsa and its tributaries, 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. I also support their ultimate designation.

Thank you for your consideration!

Lisa Ronald

Missoula resident