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First name: Ben

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments On Draft Wild and Scenic Suitability Report

Dear Nez Perce Clearwater National Forests,

Dear Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest,

My name is Ben, and I am an avid paddler. As such, I spend a lot of time recreating on Idaho national Forest land.

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 Lochsa watershed is my favorite place on planet Earth. One cannot walk along the banks, drop a line into, or paddle down any of the streams in that incredible terrain without feeling a sense of wonder at wild Idaho. I hope to share that special experience with many more friends, and hopefully someday future generations. Lifting protections on these streams opens them up to potential changes that will remove their wild character, and forever change the landscapes that mean so much to me and many others like me, and many fish, birds, mammals, trees, plants, and insects who call those streams home, and are, as Teddy Roosevelt said "adding to the joy of living of most men and women." Development of these streams can only move them further from their natural state, they will never be brought closer to their pure existence that they carved over millions of years from the peaks of Idaho. Are our temporary benefits from developments in these streams worth the potential destruction of that beautiful result? Effects are always felt downstream, and it will cheapen the wild and scenic designation of the Lochsa to know that tributary streams have been subjugated and altered. What do Idaho's rivers mean to you?

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Ben LeTourneau

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