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First name: Meghan

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Conserve the Selway, Clearwater, and Lochsa watersheds: comments on Wild and Scenic Suitability Report

Dear Nez Perce Clearwater National Forests,

Dear Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest,

I am a trail crew member for the Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation, and have spent the bulk of my time over the past three years working along the Selway River corridor and throughout the Lochsa and Selway watersheds. I know these rivers and their tributaries like the backs of my hands, have watched them change with spring runoff and late August fires, and have invested immeasurable time and energy into ensuring that recreationists can access their favorite fishing holes, hunting meadows, or craggy overlook.

I consider myself, and the rest of my trail crews, to be responsible stewards of the streams and watersheds throughout the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. We encounter many members of the public who have made the trek to spend time along Fish Creek, Colt Killed, and others in the area, specifically to recreate on or connect with these waters. We consistently hear from the public that the unique wild, pristine character of the free-flowing streams and the rugged landscape is what draws them there to fish, hunt, hike, and paddle. I know that many other employees on the Nez-Clear Forest feel a similarly strong connection to these wild waterways, and are proud to be part of the team that stewards their wild and scenic character.

As a recreationist, trail worker, and steward of these public lands and waterways, I can think of no better way to continue to caretake these waterways than to continue to protect the streams eligible for Wild and Scenic designation.

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.

Idaho has historically been applauded in the West for making strides in protecting natural resources for the enjoyment of its citizens and visitors. By protecting these streams as Wild and Scenic, this legacy and reputation will be further perpetuated.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Meghan Montgomery

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