

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/18/2018 7:00:28 PM

First name: Zachary

Last name: Winters-Staszak

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please keep Nez Perce Clearwater Wild and Scenic!

Dear Nez Perce Clearwater National Forests,

Dear Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest,

As an avid packrafter, the designation of "Wild and Scenic" means a great deal to me. I live in Seattle, but travel all around the Pacific Northwest (including Idaho) to recreate and experience wild areas. I am moving to Moscow, ID soon and am excited to explore the surrounding rivers and forests more frequently.

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.

True wilderness can be difficult to find in this day and age. Wild and Scenic rivers are the last stronghold to experience wilderness as people have for generations. To me and my friends, packrafting is the best way to do just that. We travel on foot through the forest, raft the river and hike back through the forest. This method of travel leaves no trace of our presence (other than a trail and sometimes a campsite) and creates minimal impact to the wild places we all hold dear. Crystal clear waters, as well as abundant fish and wildlife are declining across the nation and it's our duty to preserve what healthy rivers and forests are left for generations to come. Whitewater rafting, packrafting, mountain biking and hiking in these wilderness areas bring economic inputs to the surrounding communities. We purchase food, gear and housing accommodations during these excursions. That money goes directly to local small businesses and property owners. If the rivers are not protected they will invariably lose their integrity and people will search out other, more pristine areas. Look at unprotected rivers in the East, there is no comparison to a Wild & Scenic River in the West.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Also, excellent Story Map! I hope this resource is kept active after your evaluation is over.

Sincerely,

Zachary Winters-Staszak

Sincerely,

Zachary Winters-Staszak

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