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First name: Keith

Last name: Reinemann

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 writing in the hope that my comments will be included in the consideration of whether to extend the protection of Wild and Scenic designation to the amazing whitewater resources in Idaho.

I am a kayaker and work for a paddling recreation company in the Boston, MA area. I directly rely on good water quality and sensible resource management for my income. Further, myself and others revere the rivers of Idaho for their extreme high quality (water quality, scenery, multi-day paddling opportunities). Rivers like these are not available in any other part of the country, partly due to historical mis-management and development over the past decades. In fact, rivers of such high quality are only available in a handful of areas of the world, much less the United States. Denuding these 89 streams and rivers, specifically the Lochsa, Selway and Salmon, will mean that paddlers of all types will be looking to other countries in which to spend their recreational dollars. Other destinations of similar quality include Chile, Iceland and Canada. If the USFS is looking for ways to increase revenue for both the Forest Service system and local communities, stripping away protections and denuding resources and watersheds is not the way forward.

I have been dreaming of, and planning, multi-day whitewater trips to Idaho for some time. This is founded on the trust that the rivers and resources will remain high quality, not have their protections stripped away for the benefit of resource extraction. Please do not strip away the wealth of generations for the quick profit of a few. Healthy water, healthy air, healthy ecosystems are the birthright of our children and should be afforded the protections that they deserve.

The Wild and Scenic law is one of the strongest tools that we have as citizens to protect our resources. Please do not abuse the trust that citizens have in the USFS by selling out to the loudest lobbyist.

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.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Keith W Reinemann

Salem, MA 01970

reinke01@gmail.com