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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whome This May Concern:

My body was only halfway on the Thermarest, my morning breath was off the charts, and there was a sore spot in my back from where the peanut butter jar continuously rubbed into my back from the hike in the day before. But before I opened my eyes. I could feel the cool air from Salmon-Challis National Forestlands swirling around in my nose. A symphony of birds, bugs, and gentle breezes grazed my ears. Warmth cocooned me in my well-loved sleeping bag. The muscles on my upper cheekbones slowly drew my mouth into a full and toothy smile. I felt so lucky to be waking up in what seemed to be my own private Idaho. Having lived in five different states with varying amounts of public lands, I was overcome with gratitude that these types of open spaces exist-and that my favorite ones are in my home state and backyard.

I am a life-long and 4th generation Idahoan who grew up in the valley of Salmon, Idaho. As someone who just passed a decade of guiding in the Salmon-Challis National Forest, I cannot imagine what my life would be like if I did not have these opportunities to go climb, hike, fish, swim, raft, ski, and play in my local public lands. In addition to the things that bolster my own quality of life-I also have the privilege of guiding hundreds of people through this wilderness section, by boat, each year. In my time guiding, I have met people from all over the world. The families I get to take from Idaho get to have a more intimate and proud connection with the state they already love. However, many of our guests from out of state never get to see pristine watersheds or dark and starry skies in their day to day lives. In addition to bringing commerce to the state and supporting our economy, these visitors are genuinely fascinated by the history, wildlife and natural resources they get to observe. As you move forward with the revisions to the Salmon-Challis forest plan, I would personally heavily advocate for the inclusion of the following for wilderness recommendation:

Borah plus area is one of the few state highpoints in the West without wilderness protection. State-highest mountains protected within official wilderness areas include: Denali (AK), Humphrey's Peak (AZ), Mount Whitney (CA), Granite Peak (MT), Boundary Peak (NV), Wheeler Peak (NM), Mount Hood (OR), Kings Peak (UT), Mount Rainier (WA), and Gannett Peak (WY). With increasing rates of population density and tourism in the state of Idaho, Borah is likely to draw high yields of traffic into the future. I believe it is paramount to protect areas like these to the highest degree that we can as our state grows. Additionally, this area contains multiple peaks over 12,000 feet and includes one of the best preserved alpine ecosystems in not only the Salmon-Challis National Forest but in the entire state. Borah Peak area has been managed as recommended wilderness since 1979, it would be great to see an area of this caliber pass after 40+ years of quality management.

I would also highly recommend the Lemhis. This range, close and dear to my heart contains 118 peaks above 10,000 feet, and the fragile alpine life zone in the Lemhis is home to more than 200 types of plants. Although the arguments against this are that once it is listed as National Forest, it will be on the radar of the public, I believe with a growing state this will happen anyway and we should do what we can to protect it now. The eastern half of the South Lemhis is recommended for wilderness on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, but the western half in the Salmon-Challis National Forest is inexplicably not recommended despite sharing very similar characteristics.

Finally, I wish to express one more very important point. I am currently on the Board of Directors for the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association and a very active guide-liaison for the Redside Foundation. Having been a long-time guide in Idaho and being very interconnected in that community, I believe that collaboration with Idaho outfitters and guides to preserving means of income and way of life is paramount that as these wilderness designations take place. Any efforts to make sure outfitters and guides can continue their operations in these areas will not only build rapport but also preserve intangibles that make Idaho, Idaho. I would encourage conversation and consideration around issues specifically pertaining to trail maintenance and access. I believe

with these recommendations it is important to fight for solutions helping guides and outfitters being able to have guided permissions to continue clearing various access points that are crucial to their operations.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider my comments. If you have further questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me by phone at 208-756-7818 or email at dagnydeutschman@gmail.com.

Best of luck on your plan. I look forward to being involved.

Cheers,

Dagny