

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/17/2020 1:52:01 PM

First name: Regan

Last name: Byrd

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Dear Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest,

My name is Regan Byrd. I grew up in Idaho and fortunately was able to experience the wilderness from the back of my horse as a young kid into my early adulthood. I am so fortunate to have experienced these lush places and the healing serenity they provide. As I have grown older I have been able to put together the importance that the water sheds also play in making and keeping these places as beautiful as they were 20 years ago when I first laid eyes on them. Removing wild and scenic designations or keeping these designations from these places is nothing short of heartbreaking. It is my deepest fear that the individuals profiting from the natural resources will continue to take and take. The funny thing is that I cannot believe these people feel connected in the way I do, so what I see as general disrespect for the wild places we have, these folks see as money. As I said, my heart is broken in a way that is difficult to describe. It makes me question the good in people. I hope that you will consider protecting these places with every ounce of your being, and know that it is the right thing to do.

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 support for their designation. I ask that you protect these streams as eligible by withdrawing your proposed suitability determinations from all alternatives in your draft analysis and plan. Alternately, you could simply maintain eligibility protections for streams you find unsuitable. My interest in wild rivers is not met or even considered by the Draft Plan in any alternative. Even the best alternative removes eligibility protections from over half of the streams you've found eligible, and thus the range of alternatives is too narrow.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Regan Byrd