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Comments: I attended the information meeting on January 22 in Coeur d'Alene and discussed the plan and most of the alternatives presented in map form with several of the employees there. I have several comments.

I appreciate that much of the land tinted in yellow in the timber management maps is not currently commercially viable for logging, but that it is subject to harvesting to "treat" areas considered overgrown. This is current policy, and the current state of economic practicality. At all times in the future, however, it should continue to be the forest policy to cut only a limited amount of timber here and in other areas, to maintain a sustainable cut for future generations. The figure of one percent a year which you offered is prudent.

Regarding stream management, the forest has multiple stretches of water that are relatively unspoiled and in any forest would be eligible for Wild and Scenic designation. At the rate at which Idaho (my native state) is now growing, this is the last chance to protect some of the finest habitat and fishing streams from the fate of the rivers that have been degraded throughout the rest of the country. There is no question that several stretches should be designated now as suitable for Wild and Scenic status.

Kelly Creek and its forks are world famous fishing waters, irreplaceable for this purpose and as beautiful terrain for visitors to enjoy.

Meadow Creek is recognized as some of the most diverse habitat in the West, containing cutthroat and bull trout and anadromous fish which are imperiled.

The roadless stretches of the North Fork of the Clearwater are prime cutthroat and bull trout waters and should be protected from any consideration of dams or further development.

The South Fork is essential water for B run steelhead, as well as having great scenic value.

The Little North Fork is a particular treasure, with superb fishing and hiking supplied by trails that give access for both kinds of users.

Idaho has extensive wilderness land, which has proved its value on a national scale since it has been set into special status. However, North Idaho's special wild areas have not been protected for their unique features and uses. I have lived my whole life here, and it would be a huge loss to our state now and for the future generations if the Clearwater's spectacular wild spots were allowed to go the way of the Coeur d'Alene forest, where virtually the whole thing is cut apart by roads where motorized users dump garbage and erosion has silted our streams.

In particular, it is long overdue to give the Mallard Larkins true wilderness status, and they should continue to be recommended for this in the new forest plan. They have unique beauty for this area, which has been recognized and prized by forest users now and for many decades.

The proposed Great Burn wilderness area deserves recommended status, including both sides of the Kelly Creek drainage. To open any of the drainage to snowmobile access would prevent other users from experiencing the quiet and beauty of this area, as well as risking erosion that could damage this precious stream. Worst of all, it would threaten the survival of mountain goats, and wolverine which are threatened and need protection of the few remaining areas of habitat that are left to them.

Finally, East and West Meadow Creeks deserve protection because of their unique richness as habitat for multiple species of salmonids.

These areas of protection are a tiny fraction of the forest, leaving enormous and very adequate acreage open to motorized users and commercial activity. To preserve them in their current state is only to fulfill our obligation to posterity to leave the best of what God and nature have given us to our descendants, and to save some territory just now for the use of a large number of citizens who prize the unspoiled outdoors.