

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/26/2020 1:15:07 AM

First name: Paul

Last name: Charpentier

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for revising the Forest Plan for Nez-Perce Clearwater National Forest. This forest comprises some of the most beautiful, precious, and ecologically important land in the US. I urge you to continue recommending the designation of Mallard-Larkins and the Great Burn as Wilderness. I am alarmed about your possibility of opening up some of the Great Burn for snowmobile use. There is already more than enough snowmobiling area; adding these additional pieces will not improve snowmobiling much but could have a severe impact on wildlife such as wolverines (which need all the help they can get) and mountain goats. The northern snowmobile area also doesn't make sense because much of it is a very narrow strip of land sandwiched between two proposed wilderness areas in 2 different states. I also request you consider recommending Meadow Creek area as a wilderness area. The meadow creek watershed is rich in fish diversity and wildlife values, but has been subject to overuse/abuse. It would be a shame if this precious area is allowed to deteriorate.

The NP-CW forest is also home to some of the most beautiful rivers in the country. They provide clean water, recreation, flood control, and healthy habitat to thousands of creatures, including people. And they are a strong and sustainable economic boon. Without protection, they are always vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and most destructive of all, damming and mining. Please recommend that the North Fork of the Clearwater and major tributaries, South Fork of the Clearwater, and Meadow Creek are designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers. Having worked in watershed restoration, I know first hand that 'restoring' watersheds and rivers is extremely difficult to impossible. It is so much wiser, not to mention cheaper, to protect and preserve. Thank you for considering my input in the revised Forest Plan.