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Comments: I have recently reviewed the released Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Plan Revision Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Revised Forest Plan. None of the alternatives presented reflect the management I would like to see implemented for the Hoodoo Roadless Area. Please accept these comments into the formal record.

I have worked in wilderness management and education for over 4 decades. There has been support for wilderness protection of the Great Burn for as long as I can remember. It warrants full wilderness protection. Your proposal seems to show preferential treatment to snowmobilers and other motorized travel including dirt bikes. Motorized and mechanized travel should not be allowed in the Great Burn. I have witnessed snowmobilers running down mountain goats until they drop from exhaustion just so they could take pictures of themselves with this exhausted/stressed animal so they could post it on Facebook. This is simply unacceptable. The proposed wilderness acreage should not be reduced. As wildlife habitat continues to shrink due to human appetites to build homes and roads through roadless habitat it leaves less secure habitat and these animals are viewed as menaces when they wander into people's yards to eat their flowers. Homes should not be built adjacent to wilderness areas unless people are willing to accept that wildlife, including predators, will be their neighbors that they need to learn how to live with.

I have spent time with students in the Great Burn due to its proximity to the University of Montana. There is a higher chance to experience solitude in the Great Burn than the Rattlesnake and Bitterroot wildernesses even though the Great Burn has yet to be designated as wilderness. The Great Burn serves as a learning laboratory due to its unique features and undisturbed setting. It will lose those educational qualities if it is reduced in size and snowmobiles are allowed in. There are ample lands outside of proposed and designated wilderness for motorized recreation.

I support the entire 151,874 acre Hoodoo Roadless Area continue to be managed as recommended wilderness. It deserves that level of protection and management.

In the 35 years I worked as a wilderness ranger in the Mission Mountains Wilderness I observed and recorded increasing snowmobile trespass and stress on wintering wildlife. As climate change accelerates we need wild places like the Great Burn to serve as a baseline to study relatively undisturbed wildlands. It will lose those qualities if 53,000 acres are opened to snowmobile travel and trespass into restricted areas will escalate rapidly. With budget cuts facing the Forest Service, their law enforcement personnel are already stretched thin so I think trespass will expand throughout the Great Burn with little to no consequences to the trespassers but grave consequences for wintering wildlife including mountain goats.

Cayuse Creek and Kelly Creek and all of its forks should be protected under the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. Currently we have approximately 16,829 miles of river and only 388 miles designated as wild and scenic river in Montana. The three designated rivers are the Flathead River, the Missouri River, and East Rosebud Creek. Cayuse Creek and Kelly Creek should be added as worthy candidates.

In my experience providing input into forest plan revision more times than not my recommendations are cast aside in favor of extractive commodity interests and motorized/mechanized recreation. And wild places are lost forever. These lands are public lands that belong to ALL Americans, not just a vocal few increased access in the form of roads and motorized/mechanical travel, as well as nonrenewable energy development. Mitigating climate change and actually practicing adaptive management should dictate all management proposals and actions. Many Americans may never visit the Great Burn but wild places like it are important to them as existence values.

The Great Burn also offers ecosystem services to include clean water and air. How can you put a price tag on those values? What legacy will we leave for future generations?

Thank you for your efforts in considering the value of wildlands like the Great Burn.