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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a 30-year resident of Idaho, with 24 years of living on the Clearwater River, between Kamiah and Kooskia. Over these years I and my family of four have camped, hiked, hunted and fished all over the Nez Perce/ Clearwater Forests region. My children were raised and educated in these forests and on these rivers. I hold the entire region as unique and sacred in our modern world. With so very little undisturbed virgin old-growth and roadless areas left in our state, these must be protected to the utmost.

In the first place, I completely back the Friends of the Clearwater and their Citizens Alternative Forest Plan. Please analyze that alternative again and include their proposals in your drafts. The draft plans presented by the Forest Service do not go far enough to protect this precious resource. While the current plan includes measurable, quantitative standards, the proposed draft plans do not and that is NOT acceptable.

Specifically the volume of timber logged should be decreased, not increased. We need to maintain current forest preservations, not increase the destruction. Protecting especially the old-growth areas is paramount to preserving populations of sensitive animals and fishes.

Do NOT allow snow machine usage in the Great Burn area. The presence of those machines disturb resident sensitive animals such as mountain goats, fishers and wolverines. There is more than enough area already open to those activities; there is no need to open more area to them.

Do increase the number of suitable or eligible rivers for wild and scenic designations. These precious clean rivers need as much protection as possible, to benefit forests, fisheries and animals.

Lastly, do include Weitas Creek Roadless area as a wilderness in this forest revision. The unique micro-climates in this area must be protected from development and roads. The fisheries there offer solitude and special fishing opportunities that are not available anywhere else in North Idaho.

In conclusion, I know and love this area for its unique undisturbed character. We must protect it to the utmost for ourselves and our children. Write a more rigorous plan that will provide that protection.