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Title:

Comments: I am writing to ask you to maintain the existing boundaries of the Great Burn Recommended Wilderness, to add the Bighorn-Weitas Roadless Area, and to maintain the prohibitions against motorized/mechanized travel.

A UN report issued last year predicted the loss of a million species due to human impacts. Protecting the wildlife that makes its home in the Great Burn is of critical importance. Many of the species there, like mountain goats and wolverines, are especially vulnerable to disturbances. Allowing vehicles into the area would be a grave mistake.

The diversity of wildlife in the Great Burn, and the possibility of grizzlies moving in, position it perfectly as both a wildlife corridor and as a tool for managing biodiversity. Reducing the boundaries would lessen protection for the lynx, fishers, moose, elk, and wolves that call it home.

I hope you will also protect proposed wilderness areas like Mallard-Larkins and Meadow Creek. The Wilderness designation is critical to safeguard the beautiful backcountry many of us enjoy, and to protect the incredible diversity of native fish species found in those creeks.

Lastly, preserving the North Fork, Little North Fork, and the South Fork Clearwater Rivers as wild and scenic would wisely protect two key fisheries- cutthroat trout and steelhead.

Thank you,

BP Casbara