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Comments: Zach Peterson - As a cultural resource specialist and natural history student, I have worked, traveled, and spent many years in forest lands and wilderness areas around Idaho and Montana. I have raised three children to appreciate the beauty, grandeur, and solitude that wilderness provides people. I hope that these natural and wild areas will also be available to my grandson and other members of future generations.

I am writing to urge protection of the Great Burn for its wildness, particularly the absence of roads and motorized vehicles of any sort. This feature is not only important as an area for humans to escape the excesses of "civilization", but it is also critical habitat for a variety of plant and animal species, among which are mountain goats, wolverines, lynx, and the grizzly bear population returning to prior occupation areas.

The current Nez Perce-Clearwater plan should protect the wilderness values of the Great Burn, as well as the proposed Mallard-Larkins Wilderness and the proposed East and West Meadow Creek Wilderness. Wild and scenic status should also be studied and protection granted, if appropriate, for the free flowing portions of the North Fork and South Fork of the Clearwater River which are critical habitat for salmon, steelhead, and various species of trout, including the threatened bull trout. Kelly creek, the three forks of Kelly Creek, and Cayuse Creek - all in the Great Burn - should also be studied and granted Wild and Scenic status.

The Nez Perce-Clearwater NF need to consider the adverse impact that allowing motorized vehicles, including snow machines of any sort will have on the natural settings and wildness of the Great Burn, Mallard-Larkins, and the East and West Meadow Creek areas.

In recent years the economies of Idaho and Montana have demonstrated how eco-tourism and the availability of wild areas attract more and more people who value those wild and serene areas for the solitude they offer. These values can and will be degraded by allowing motorized use of the areas such as the Great Burn. Such use would lead to uncontrolled off-road destruction of more extensive areas. Please protect these areas.

Weber Greiser