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Comments: I am primarily writing to comment on the possibility of granting wild and scenic status to the Little North Fork of the Clearwater. I have kayaked rivers all over the west as well as international rivers. The Little North Fork of the Clearwater is still my favorite river of all those I've had a chance to paddle. This is a truly unique stretch of water with brilliant fishing opportunities. One only needs to look at the state lands surrounding this river to see the devastating effects of logging to realize this river needs protection.

I am also writing to comment on the draft management plan for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. I am discouraged to learn that the Forest Service may open the proposed Great Burn Wilderness Area to snowmobiles. I've seen the effects of ever increasing motorized travel in my local forests, leading to a destruction of tranquility needed by animals looking to survive the winter.

I would also like to see the entire Meadow Creek watershed protected as wilderness. This significant tributary to the Selway River includes populations of steelhead, salmon, cutthroat trout, and bull trout. Furthermore, I am told that the native trout in Meadow Creek have a high level of genetic diversity than any other watershed in the Rocky Mountains. Wilderness designation will protect this valuable fishery.

The Mallard-Larkins Area is another important candidate for wilderness. This area is a favorite destination for primitive backcountry recreation. The trails are great for hiking and backpacking. There are fewer and fewer places to enjoy the quiet solitude of wilderness. The Mallard-Larkins is one such place.

Finally, I would like to see the North Fork and South Fork Clearwater Rivers protect as wild and scenic. Wild and scenic rivers designations would ensure that no one can build a dam or divert water from these rivers. I would hate to see that happen. The North Fork is a blue-ribbon cutthroat trout river. The South Fork has large steelhead. Please protect them.