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First name: Mari

Last name: Houck

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

Hello! My name is Mari Houck and I am a 28 year old female living in Missoula, MT. I am a seasonal Park Ranger in Yellowstone and spend the majority of my work time and recreation time outdoors. Out of curiosity I attended a meeting last night held by "Friends of the Clearwater" and I learned about the potential future of the Nez Perce & Clearwater National Forests.

I want to believe that whoever is reading this, a worker for the USFS, also shares the love of spending time outside exploring, as I do. The potential plans only show options for degrading the existing conditions of our forests by increasing logging and road building and detrimental acts for forest health.

It is obvious at this point that climate change is happening (however you believe it is happening) and forests/trees are our main defense. We cannot afford to lose large amounts of them! Not to mention all affected wildlife and ecosystems. It's just clear as day - we cannot keep going in this destructive direction.

As for being the USFS I totally understand that logging is very political and money is important and all the other workings is way over my head. But with the direction this planet is heading, protecting the forests that are left is something we can do. I mean, when was the last time you actually heard some positive news about the environment?

Please at least give us the option to keep things the way they are if we can't have the option of making them better. We all know the impact of logging on the environment and impact financially. But sometimes we have to consider the bigger picture and the wonderful forests we are lucky to surround ourselves with.

Please reconsider, please.

Can you recommend as wilderness or protect 1.5 million acres of roadless areas in the new forest plan? Can you set water quality, wildlife habitat and fish habitat standards that are quantitative, enforceable, and non-discretionary without loopholes? Nature creates diverse forests better than an agency - we all know that.

Thanks!

Mari Houck