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First name: Bernie

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Organization: Snodrifters of Latah County

Title:

Comments: My name is Bernie Hermann and I live in Moscow, Idaho. My main form of recreation is camping and riding ATV. Since the Nez Perce - Clearwater Forest is close to my home, I spend a fair amount of time there. I ride year around including using tracks in the winter. I have ridden in most all areas in the Forest with designated trails. I also work with the District Recreation staff to give input and help with planning. I work with the Lewis-Clark ATV Club in helping maintain over 100 miles of motorized trail each year.

I strongly prefer Alternative X as described in the DEIS. This Alternative provides for increased opportunities for motorized recreation. This Alternative is consistent with State and local preferences. It has been documented that motorized recreation is very important to the economies of rural communities.

This Forest is home to the largest intact wilderness area in the lower 48 states. This Forest has enough wilderness already. I oppose any new wilderness in the Forest, and I oppose any recommended wilderness areas in the Forest. I support an area designation of Primitive Motorized, or use of special management areas, in order to preserve historical motorized uses in areas with some wilderness qualities in order to preserve the status quo. Any recommended wilderness area should not be managed as wilderness. Historic motorized uses and activities pre-existing RWA designation should be restored and allowed until Congress directs otherwise.

We need more motorized recreation areas in the Forest. More loop routes. The DEIS itself states there is a need for increased opportunities for motorized recreation in the front country and in the backcountry, during summer and winter seasons. Data suggests that more than one-half of the recreational use of the NP-CL Forest related to motorized recreation.

I encourage the Forest to avoid road and trail decommissioning at every opportunity. I understand resource issues may sometimes present a problem for OHV routes. But destroying a route is the least preferred action. Considerable consideration to repair, improvement or reconstruction should be the first priority, followed by exploring opportunities for route relocation. Local clubs and users, like myself, are more than willing to help with these activities to keep routes open.

The federal government owns and controls a majority of the land base in the counties where the Forest lies. Local communities depend upon a vibrant motorized recreation experience in the Forest to draw tourism expenditures to the local communities. Annual motorized recreation expenditures in the seven affected counties average \$62,665,104, and those expenditures generate upwards of \$2.3 Billion annually to local GDP.

Please give these comments consideration in the final plan and let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Bernie Hermann