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Comments: I have recently reviewed the released Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Plan Revision Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Revised Forest Plan. None of the alternatives presented reflect the management I would like to see implemented for the Hoodoo Roadless Area. Please accept these comments into the formal record.

I've lived in Montana for 15 years and have been exploring its gorgeous landscapes that entire time. My husband and I have only started exploring the Great Burn in the past five years, but what a gorgeous, wild, stunning landscape and ecosystem. The wild places of the West feed my soul. They have my soul. And they're essential not only for people's mental and physical wellbeing, but for the wellbeing of the myriad wild creatures that live in these landscapes. I think of the wolverines and grizzlies (!) and mountain goats and pine martens and pikas that live in and visit the Great Burn, how they need these wild places. Humans have altered so much of the world with roads and buildings and pollution - which means it's even more important to keep our wild places wild. Humans have plenty of places to bike and snowmobile and drive - let's save the Great Burn and other wild landscapes for the hikers, for non-mechanized/motorized exploring, for the wild creatures who have fewer and fewer places to retreat to.

My husband and I have a two-year-old son, and last fall we took him to Kid Lake. The drive was long but the hike was short, and we were so grateful to be able to take our toddler to such a wild, beautiful, untrammeled place. He splashed in the lake, ate huckleberries right off the bushes, and got himself covered in mud. He loved every minute of it, and so did we.

When he was two months old, we took him up to Heart Lake - we couldn't quite get all the way to the lake because of the snow, but we got most of the way there. I remember sitting on a dry patch of ground, eating lunch and nursing my son in the sunshine, surrounded by nothing but trees, the soft shush of the wind, sunlight dripping from the branches, the twittering of birds, infused with the peace and serenity that comes from being in a place that you can only reach by the effort of your own two legs.

The Great Burn is wild. It is unique. It is stunning. And we have the power to keep it that way. Wild places can be ruined so easily - once wildness is tamed, it's a long hard road to get it back. So let's keep the Great Burn wild. Let's not compromise the quiet, untrammeled nature of this landscape. I want my son's children, and his children's children, and beyond, to be able to sit at Heart Lake, at Kid Lake, at one of the other 40+ jewel-like lakes in the Great Burn and enjoy the same serenity we did.

Please: let the entire 151,874 acres of the Hoodoo Roadless Area continue to be managed as Recommended Wilderness. Our children, and their children, and their children, will thank us.

Our wild creatures are so negatively impacted by motorized vehicles. The native mountain goats--among other animals--in the Hoodoo Roadless Area are extremely sensitive to the noise and air pollution. And that noise and air pollution diminishes--and extinguishes--an area's wilderness character.

We already have SO many places that are open to motorized vehicles--it is the rule rather than the exception. It's so important to keep our wild places wild, to keep motorized and mechanized vehicles out of these special places, to retain the wildness for the flora and fauna that depend on this unique landscape.

The creeks and rivers of the Great Burn are so stunningly beautiful, and absolutely worthy of Wild and Scenic designation.

Please: continue to treat the Great Burn as a true wilderness. If anything, let's expand the recommended wilderness designation and the non-motorized, non-mechanized management to areas beyond the Hoodoo Roadless Area.

I know creating a new forest plan is an immense responsibility and an immense amount of work! Thank you for the time and effort you've all put into this, and for working to maintain and manage this unique, wild landscape.