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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am Rick D. Shaw and I am commenting on the Nez-Perce Clearwater National Forest Plan Revision. I am an outdoorsman and a member of Montana snowmobile organizations as well a member of Backcountry Sled Patriots. I enjoy fishing, hunting, hiking and snowmobiling in our National Forests in Montana and Idaho.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) offers four alternative approaches to managing the Great Burn. The DEIS suggests that components of the draft alternatives may be modified to develop a final alternative. I am not in favor of the four alternatives however I do suggest as a member of Backcountry Sled Patriots a "NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE" with the following changes: Hoodoo area will be designated as 'semi-primitive motorized' instead of a RWA. Access would be limited to snowmobiles, snow bikes and mountain bikes. This semi-primitive motorized re-classification for the HOODOO RWA will protect and preserve the unique physical characteristics of the area yet allow more extensive varieties of use.

The No Action Alternative With Changes has sound reasoning rather than Alternative X as it offers both motorized and non-motorized users use that will not diminish the wildness character of the area. It is a workable and fair solution.

I support this designation as it allows continued motorized winter use in a historic snowmobile riding area. I have been riding the area since 1994 until it was recently closed. Others that I know well have been riding in the area for 35 years. While this proposed designation is a fair alternative closing down the area to motorized use was totally unfair. This alternative will restore the area to riding and fairness.

Allowing motorized use will allow me and others to enjoy this winter recreation that showcases God's handiwork with rugged mountains, snow depths approaching 20 feet and awesome scenery. There won't be user conflict as no other users can access this rugged challenging country in the deep winter snow. In the years that I rode the area I never saw any other type of user.

There will be no wildlife disturbance as the snow depths are too deep for any wildlife to forage and exist. I have an acute awareness of my surroundings and I have not seen any wildlife at these high elevations except for an occasional magpie or raven. I haven't so much as cut a track of any wildlife at these high elevations.

There will be no disturbance to the landscape. All trace of motorized use in the winter disappears with the next snowstorm which is frequent in this area and certainly when the snow melts in the spring.

I ask for your consideration in this semi-primitive motorized re-classification as a viable plan for the Nez-Perce Clearwater National Forest Plan Revision. It works for all users and restores an area that was unreasonably closed to motorized use.

Respectfully yours,