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Comments: I follow and am concerned about the status of the Great Burn Wilderness Study areas. I am an avid outdoorsman and use these public lands regularly, including on the Idaho side of the divide. The following points that were developed by Backcountry Hunters and Anglers summarize my opinion on this matter. THIS IS NOT A FORM LETTER! I follow these issues closely:

Allowing motorized use in the Great Burn would negatively impact our goat and wolverine populations, among other wildlife concerns

Hunters, in particular, care about these two species because 1) we'd like to see mountain goats on the Montana side thrive to the point of sustaining a huntable population and 2) as a candidate to be listed as a Threatened Species under the Endangered Species Act, it's in everyone's best interests to provide habitat security for the wolverine

Shrinking or eliminating any of the Recommended Wilderness could open up the Great Burn to road building and increased resource extraction that would threaten and forever alter this important habitat and landscape

Increasing winter motorized use and removing Recommended Wilderness on the Idaho side will certainly increase the likelihood of the Lolo National Forest doing the same on the Montana side, which is another reason to oppose this

Both sustaining healthy numbers of wild westslope cutthroat trout (and close enough for Montanans to catch them), the South Fork and Kelly Creek in particular should both be considered for Wild & Scenic river designations.

Thank you for your time and energy on this issue.

Roger Furlong