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Comments: I have recently heard about the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Plan Revision Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Revised Forest Plan. I have gotten some information. However, it seems the alternatives presented for the Hoodoo Roadless Area do not reflect the management I would like to see implemented. Please accept these comments into the formal record.

I recommend that the Hoodoo Road-less Area (Great Burn) be managed for its more pristine values and recreational use and not for typical timber production or motorized use. This is the day and age to focus on restoration of our disturbed landscapes. The USFS along with other agencies and consulting companies have more ecological understanding, restoration knowledge, and work force to restore our degraded forests, riparian areas, and other degraded habitats than ever before. It's time to stop going after what is nearly or mostly untouched and focus on what we have touched, what has been colonized with exotic plants, where native plants are struggling to remain viable, and where our forest landscapes are not capable of providing for wood products, recreation, and the variety of habitats needed to maintain our native plants and animals. I used to work on the Clearwater National Forest in the 1990's (and other national forests in CA, MT, and AK from the late 1990's to early 2000's) and understand the need for wood products, for our timber companies, foresters, and smaller communities to be economically sustainable. I understand we have a huge network of roads in our USFS landscapes that should be rehabilitated/restored because they no longer are needed for timber extraction and are causing harm to retaining soils, are corridors for weed dispersal and growth, and creating other problems. I urge against opening the Hoodoo Roadless Area to motorized vehicles and timber management.

I have worked on the Clearwater National Forest, but not directly in the Great Burn area. However, I have worked with botanists managing this region, have read books on the history that encompasses this area, and have recreated a little in this area. Our lands that have none to few roads, lack timber management, and lack other human infrastructure are shrinking and need as little human interference or management as possible. I recommend that the entire Hoodoo Roadless Area be managed as Wilderness.

I would like to know more about the USFS plan to allow winter motorized access to 53,000 acres. It is important that people recreate in the winter, but it must be done so has to not harm hibernating animals and not interfere with wildlife species' abilities to survive in winter.

I support adding Cayuse Creek and Kelly Creek to the Wild and Scenic River designation. That designation has helped other rivers such as the Lochsa River stay more ecologically healthy while still providing recreation and providing scenic beauty. It is important to manage our waters to prevent pollution (temperature, sediment, metals, plastics, etc.), to maintain healthy aquatic plant and animal populations that are in ecological balance, and provide protections that allow for better planning of proposed actions.

I need to read the Forest Plan more carefully before I can make specific recommendations.

I applaud the USFS for conducting forest plan revisions using a team representing timber, fire, botany, wildlife, recreation, hydrology, economics, ecology, and other disciplines. Creating forest plans are very important, very sensible processes, but require good science, time, good coordination, and facilitation. Thanks for your time and energy in working as a team to manage the Nez Perce-Clearwater national forest, which is a national treasure.