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Comments: My name is Marc Hildesheim, and I live in Medical Lake Washington. Growing up in the Inland Northwest I have spent my entire life recreating in Eastern Washington and North Idaho. I am an avid OHV enthusiast, but my primary recreation types are off-highway motorcycle and snowmobile. Because of the distance to the Forest I don't recreate there on a regular basis, but have spent vacations on the North Fork of the Clearwater at Bungalow Bridge, camped at the Cedars Campground, camped at Friends Cabin's on Hoodoo Pass, camped near Adams Camp outside of Grangeville, snowmobiled from Superior, MT into the Clearwater, and worked and recreated on the Selway, Red River, and Lochsa Ranger Districts. The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest provides some of the most appealing off-highway vehicle recreation in the State of Idaho and I consider it an important long-term destination opportunity for myself and many others. Few other Forests offer the long-distance trail loops that can be accessed on this Forest. I write today to express my support for Alternative X in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Plan Revision. I believe that this alternative provides the best balance of preserving access, promoting forest health, and supporting the local communities that surround the Forest. I do however believe that there needs to be some items added to the alternative. The alternative does not provide sufficient motorized access to the forest despite the DEIS stating that over half the visits to the Forest are related to some sort of motorized use. This is especially notable in the lack of routes that allow for access to OHVs over 50 inches in width. This is currently the fastest growing segment in OHV recreation, and to ensure user satisfaction and resource protection it is vital to provide these members of the public with appropriate opportunities. They will not remain content with the full-size road opportunities currently available and may venture out to find a more trail like experience. This can lead to resource impacts and user conflicts. People come to the Forest to recreate, and they will recreate. It is up to the land managers to decide where that recreation takes place. I hope that the Forest will consider more access for motorized recreation enthusiasts.

The most important aspect of Alternative X is that it does not recommend additional recommended wilderness areas or wild and scenic rivers. The Forest is home to the largest intact wilderness area in the lower 48 states. There is no need for additional wilderness or recommended wilderness on the Forest. In addition, several of the recommended wilderness areas include popular motorized and mountain bike trails that should not be closed. This includes Pot Mountain, East and West Meadow Creek, and Anderson Butte. Mechanized and motorized use of these areas is historical in nature and remain popular to this day. The Fish Creek motorized trail should remain open and therefore Fish Creek should not be considered for designation as a Wild and Scenic River. I do not support any additional designations for Wild & Scenic rivers on the Forest as there are already many segments designated as such and therefore remaining segments were already evaluated for inclusion and found not to meet the desired characteristics.

The Nez Perce Clearwater does not have the resources to care for the existing wilderness and should not be adding more to the system. The Frank Church has been declared a disaster area in my lifetime because the Forest could not maintain the trails in the wilderness area. It does not make sense to add restrictions that limit access and options for treatment and maintenance. The Forest health is not up to par and would only worsen if put into a management prescription that limits management's options for thinning, burning, etc. Limiting motorized and bicycle access by adding wilderness would be detrimental to local economies as well. Motorized recreation contributes an average of \$62 million to the seven local counties that surround the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. Limiting motorized access would be absolutely crippling to these communities. Finally, the Forest should leave the Hoodoo area open to snowmobile, mountain bike, and equestrian use. This area is a popular recreation destination with many private land holdings nearby. The snowmobile recreation in the area has no long-term impacts on the resources in the area as the extremely deep snowfall and the fact that snowmobile tracks melt mean that nobody can tell that there was a snowmobile there by July. Mountain bikers currently utilize the area and should not be denied the opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

