

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/14/2020 8:24:48 PM

First name: Diane

Last name: Baumgart

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have taken time and consulted the report and experts in these areas to formulate my comments. I have serious concerns about the Land Management Plan Revision for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. These forests should remain off limits to logging, mining and motorized vehicles in order to protect fish and wildlife habitat and be maintained for wilderness hiking, hunting, fishing, camping and mitigating changes in temperatures, rainfall, extreme fires caused by high temperatures and draughts and the continuing lessening of diverse plants and animals and their habitat.. No actions listed in any of the plans are data-based nor do they contain any evaluation tools or strategies for measuring and evaluating the outcomes of suggested changes. Below are more details of my concerns and comments:

I- would like to see the entire Great Burn area protected as "wilderness". The Forest Service closed this area to snow machines several years ago to protect mountain goats, wolverines, lynx and other wildlife and to protect the area's wilderness character and support a valuable recreation wilderness. Please keep the Great Burn entirely off-limits to ALL snowmobiles. Increased motorized recreation along the Idaho-Montana border would affect movement of wildlife through this critical migration area.

I- would like to see the Mallard-Larkins, East Meadow Creek, and West Meadow Creek protected as "wilderness". The Mallard-Larkins provides outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, hunting, and fishing for primitive backcountry recreation. East and West Meadow Creek has the greatest diversity of wild salmon, steelhead, trout, and char anywhere in the Rocky Mountains. Please preserve the wilderness designation to protect this important fish habitat. This wilderness designation promotes mitigation of sustainable efforts to support devastating temperature rises, rain shortfalls and droughts and frequent and intense storms and fires that ravage our lands and endanger our health.

~Please protect the North Fork and South Fork Clearwater Rivers by designating them as "wild and scenic" so there will be no threat of potential dam sites on the rivers that would affect the cutthroat trout and bull trout. The North Fork is a tremendous cutthroat trout fishery, and one of Idaho's few B-run steelhead fisheries is found in the South Fork. The current plan has quantifiable standards for fish habitat, such as a 300-foot buffer along streams. The proposed plan has no measurable standards to protect stream substrate. This is unacceptable and appears to ignore imperiled fish populations.