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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I grew up in the rural Midwest and moved to Idaho almost 50 years ago. I moved to Idaho because of the mountains and rivers. I became an avid backpacker and later a white water enthusiast. I worked for the Clearwater National Forest seasonally in 1977, 1978 and 1988. I also planted trees on private contracts. During my thousands of miles of hiking and riding rafts and my work in the woods I've seen how past forest management has greatly damaged the ecosystems our agencies inherited.

Now I see the proposed forest plans as a return to past practices. As we travel through the 21st century we will see big changes in our forests due to climate change, whether it is acknowledged or not. Ramping up logging on our land, so much of it not great habitat for tree farms, is reckless and not prudent.

I heartily disagree with the new plans on many fronts. We have big roadless areas which will not remain intact with most of these alternatives, removing them from future wilderness designation. We should be saving all our roadless areas for another reason: wildlife, especially the Grizzly. Our central Idaho wildernesses and roadless areas are the best habitat to bring back the majestic apex predator.

I support the Citizen-Science alternative, which asks for, among other things, quantifiable standards. The alternatives presented in the forest plan revision don't do the job and instead offer "trust us" as the only hope.