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Comments: Today I would like to comment on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest plan.

It is important to preserve key protected areas.

The Forest Service should maintain existing boundaries of the Great Burn Recommended Wilderness Area and maintain existing regulations to limit motorized or mechanized travel. Increased motorized recreation use in this area, particular snowmobiling, would cause negative effects on mountain goat and wolverine populations, and would effect the movement of wildlife through this corridor.

I also support Mallard-Larkins, East and West Meadow Creek, Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork and North Fork Spruce-White Sand areas as recommended wilderness.

Please take proactive measures to prevent human-wildlife conflicts.

With grizzly bear sightings on the rise, the Forest Service needs to take a more proactive approach to grizzly bear management, and integrate coexistence into the forest plan. An important step would be to bring in food storage orders to minimize future conflicts between bears and people and keep everyone safe.

Ensure the national forest maintains connectivity.

Connectivity between the forest and neighboring lands should be maintained and improved upon. If highways that cross national forest lands are reconstructed or expanded, wildlife crossings and other measures should be included to keep wildlife connected over and under these busy roads. The right kind of management will also help address other connectivity issues facing the area, such as increased recreation.