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First name: Shane

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Keeping our back country access available to our generation and generations to come

My name is Shane Hart, and I am commenting on the DEIS on the Nez Pierce Clearwater National Forest Plan revision. I support the "No Action Alternative" with the following changes: Hoodoo area will be designated as "semi primitive motorized" instead of RWA. Access would be limited to snowmobiles, snow bikes and mountain bikes. North Fork Spruce-White Sands and Sneakfoot Meadows RWA's will be eliminated. As I don't support the RWA designation, I do support protecting these areas from activities that could impact the land in a negative manner.

I feel strongly about being able to access these areas in the future in the same manner I was able to years ago, via snowmobile. My father introduced me to those areas when I was a kid in the early 80's. I enjoyed the scenery and challenge of riding it offered. And as I grew older, I learned to appreciate being removed from the city atmosphere and being far from civilization in an amazing area to enjoy. Resetting myself from everyday life with the beauty of the backcountry. I'm still an avid sledder and now have a son I enjoy sharing my passion with, as he has the same passion. I would love the opportunity to share these areas with him as my father did with me, and to teach him how to be respectful of the land as I was taught. Yes, there are other areas to ride, but none compare to what these areas have to offer. I've ridden everywhere and nowhere compares. Period. Also, the fact of minimal travel to get there for us makes this area unique. In all my 40 plus years of riding, I absolutely feel my impact on the environment, animals and surroundings are extremely minimal to non existent. Some will argue that sleds compacting the snow helps slow spring runoff and leave snow in the hills longer.

I truly hope my statements and experiences are considered. The opportunity to enjoy this great area again by snowmobile would be amazing and appreciated, especially by those of us that used to enjoy it and understand the beauty it offers, but had that privilege revoked.

Thank you

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