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First name: Debra
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Title:
Comments: Comments on Nez Perce-Clearwater NFs Forest Plan Revision #44089

Dear Zach Peterson,

Please accept these comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Plan Revision.

I fully support the Citizen Conservation Biology Alternative submitted by Friends of the Clearwater and request that it be fully analyzed as its own Alternative.

The forest plan revision for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests must:

* Administer existing Wildernesses as per the Wilderness Act, both the spirit and intent.

* Protect all roadless areas so they maintain the characteristics necessary to be designated as wilderness by Congress in the future. All roadless areas should be recommended for wilderness or protected by administrative non-motorized and non-mechanized backcountry designations. The FS should also limit mechanized access to provide secure areas for sensitive wildlife (wolverine, grizzly bear and even elk), and reduce erosion to streams, compaction of fragile soils, and the spread of invasive weeds.

* Address climate change by reducing carbon emissions and promoteing climate stability by emphasizing carbonstorage in trees, down wood, and soils in the forest and reducing the use of motorized vehicles and fossil fuels.

* Exclude roadless areas, existing and potential Wild and Scenic river corridors and proposed and existing Research National Areas from the suitable timber base and make them off limits to logging.

* Protect Water, Soil and Aquatic Resources by maintaining and/or restoring the elements which characterize good native fish habitat and high water quality by including enforceable standards that protect clean and cold water and complex, connected and comprehensive habitats. Existing wetland and stream buffers and other protection measures, known as PACFISH and INFISH, must be maintained and improved. Meaningful and enforceable standards to protect soils, as required by law, must be included.

* Allow fire to perform its necessary ecosystem rejuvenating function and also allow insects and disease to play their ecological functions. This is especially true within Wilderness, roadless areas and other natural areas.

* Curtail clearcutting and other silvicultural prescriptions that leave large openings, which cause edge effects that fragment the landscape. These openings adversely affect habitats for numerous species.

* Emphasize landscape connectivity by providing wildlife linkage corridors so that animals can move unimpeded across the landscape, facilitating migration and genetic interchange.

* Reduce the miles of roads to improve wildlife security and watershed integrity, while also providing good paying restoration jobs.

Thank you for opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Debra Guel
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