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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Nez Perce-Clearwater NFs Forest Plan Revision #44089

Dear Forest Planner Peterson,

Basic forest management for wildlife spells out quite clearly the fact that diverse age groups are necessary for the vitality of both wildlife and the forest itself. A monolithic old growth forest does not allow sunlight to hit the forest floor due having a closed canopy, thus the grasses and young plant growth essential to both mammals and birds are absent. The facts outlined here are gathered from my 50 total years as a member of the Boone & Crocket Club and Life Sponsor of the Ruffed Grouse Society.

This project is a MUST DO.

Thank you for your attention.

Tom Dew

The new forest plan for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest should prioritize and accelerate forest management activities on lands determined to be suitable for timber harvesting. This will enable the forest to achieve desired outcomes for our public lands while providing positive economic and social benefits to our communities. The forest plan should be revised to

- Achieve desired conditions and attain the Historic Range of Variation through active forest management, including logging and thinning to attain higher compositions of early seral species, decreased tree densities, increased resiliency and diversity of forest vegetation.
- Recognize the importance of economic viability of the local forest products infrastructure that will be required to perform the necessary restoration treatments.
- Meet the intent of the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act by including the sustained-yield of timber as a "desired condition."
- Provide land managers with increased flexibility to use a range of forest management tools and logging systems to more efficiently and effectively achieve desired conditions on the ground.
- Ensure an adequate and intact road system for forest management, firefighting, recreation and other forest uses.

Successful management of the resources identified in the Nez Perce-Clearwater plan is attainable. Resources such as timber and wildlife are not mutually exclusive. It is possible to provide a stable and predictable supply of timber; sustain rural economies; recover fish and wildlife species listed under the Endangered Species Act; provide clean air and water; and provide habitat for viable populations of wildlife species all at the same time.

Sincerely,

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