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First name: Keith

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

my name is Keith Curtis. I am a Montana Native, and live for the outdoors. I am a professional snowmobile hillclimb athlete that utilizes the great outdoors for training year around. Additionally, I love to share my recreating experiences with my wife, child, friends, and others who also love the great outdoors.

I have traveled and ridden hundreds of areas in my lifetime. This list continues to grow as I have ridden/competed in different countries from Russia, Austria, Italy, Romania, British Columbia, but mostly the Northwestern United States. In all of my years, I have never ridden somewhere more unique and special than the Great Burn area in the Nez Pierce National Forest. It is unique in many ways, but one of the most unique parts about it is the unique landscape with several feet of snow in the Winter months. In addition to recreating in the Great Burn on OSV, I have also snowmobiled in areas, Lolo Pass, Tom Beal, Elk Meadows and Beaver Lookout. There is zero damage from OSV use, and I have never seen any mountain goats in all the years I have ridden OSV. I have recreated on OHV's around Elk City into the Buffalo Hump, and the McGruder Corridor. I have ridden Mountain bikes around the Lochsa, and I have ridden motorcycles around Wilderness Gateway. There is so much potential for all of these zones!

The Nez-Pierce is home of the largest intact Wilderness in the lower 48 states, please allow us to recreate in our Public lands and live life to the fullest! We appreciate our lands, and do our absolute best to take care of it for the future generations. Additionally, please think about the boost in economy as people recreate. Snowmobiles, and Summer OHV bring big money into areas communities around the Nez Pierce National Forest. I support multi-use recreation. I also, very much encourage large loop rides.

I support the special management area being created for the Great Burn. I encourage the Forest Service to avoid more trail closures for OHV travel, and re-open trails that haven't been cleared for years. Let groups like "Team Lochsa" clear the trails for family's, kids, adults to enjoy!

Thank you for your time and consideration.