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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have lived in Idaho since 1987. In the late 90s, I started mountain climbing and it is one of my deep passions. I have climbed all over Idaho since and I have seen a LOT of country in Idaho, including in the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest, and know better than most people how special Idaho's public lands are, not only for use, but also for conservation, wilderness-like experiences, and preservation for future generations.

I am very interested in the continued conservation of areas in Idaho that afford excellent climbing and backcountry opportunities (and skiing opportunities). The growing population will continue to put pressure on public lands and continued migration to Idaho will exacerbate pressure to sell off, monetize, and extract from those lands. For that reason alone, it is important to assure land is available and accessible for the public to get away from the pressures of civilization. Additionally, the USFS needs to prioritize conservation areas within their forests and to do more collaboration with other Forests to assure a variety of lands are conserved/preserved throughout the state for humans and for wildlife that are desperately holding on.

I am interested in the management of the Great Burn area. I do know the history of the Great Burn and know the devastation and loss of life the fire caused. I travel through the area often and I do have concerns that another Great Burn could happen with similar consequences.

The Great Burn area does need management that assures that the Great Burn does not have a sequel, and to that end, the Forest Service could be doing better. Thus, I do support vegetation management changes in that area that more aggressively lessen wildfire effects, however, I do not support opening the area to motorized travel/recreation outside of what is minimally necessary to manage the area to lessen wildfire.

The marked increase in population within any forest that allows motorized use also increases the probability of a human-caused fire start, via motorized machinery and/or increased campfire use, and that is exactly what you DO NOT want in the Great Burn area. While we can fight fire better now than in the days of the Great Burn, the terrain has not changed and it will still be very difficult and expensive to fight a fire in that area.

So I do support responsible vegetation management but with no-to-minimal changes in use, especially for the Great Burn area.