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Comments: Hello, please accept these brief comments on the Nez-Perce Clearwater Forest Plan:

It is important to preserve key protected areas.

First, the Forest Service should protect the existing boundaries of the Great Burn Recommended Wilderness Area. The Great Burn is deserving of wilderness designation and should be managed as such.

Second, the Mallard-Larkins, East and West Meadow Creek, Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork and North Fork Spruce-White Sand areas should all be recommended as wilderness.

Third, maintain existing regulations to limit motorized or mechanized travel. Increased motorized recreation use in this area, particular snowmobiling, would cause negative effects on mountain goat and wolverine populations, and would affect the movement of wildlife through this corridor.

Fourth, please take proactive measures to prevent human-wildlife conflicts in and around the National Forest. This includes a food storage order and proactive measures to prevent conflicts with grizzlies who are repopulating this area.

Fifth, it is essential that the plan supports connectivity for grizzly bears.

Connectivity between the forest and neighboring lands should be maintained and improved upon. If highways that cross national forest lands are reconstructed or expanded, wildlife crossings and other measures should be included to keep wildlife connected over and under these busy roads. The right kind of management will also help address other connectivity issues facing the area, such as increased recreation.

Thank you for considering these comments.