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First name: Scott

Last name: Chapman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it may concern:

My name is Scott Chapman, and I reside in McCall, Valley County, Idaho. My wife & I are backcountry snowmobilers that enjoy riding primarily in Idaho, and also Wyoming, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

Regarding the revision to the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest's Plan Revision #44089, I strongly prefer alternative X as described in the DEIS. Alternative X is in line with State and Local preferences, and the National Forest Service is heavily compelled in its decision-making process to acknowledge and account for these.

Alternative X restores historic backcountry snowmobiling terrain that was closed by a policy of Region One that was later determined in court to be illegal. There is no rational reason for those areas closed by this illegal policy to remain closed in the future. Backcountry snowmobiling by its very nature does no harm to wilderness characteristics because our tracks melt away every spring. "Social conflict", those conflicts which are touted by anti-snowmobile groups such as Winter Wildlands Alliance, are completely subjective in nature and should have no bearing on policy.

The DEIS states there is a need for more opportunities for winter motorized recreation. Again, there is no rational reason not to open more terrain to backcountry snowmobiling over an above that which was illegally closed previously.