

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/17/2020 6:40:04 AM

First name: Ron

Last name: Smith

Organization:

Title:

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

Dear Forest Planner Peterson,

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concerns over the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. I have watched the decline of our forest for way to long due to inadequate harvest of viable timber that instead of being harvested has turned into a bug infested and diseased forest that is no longer good for the wildlife, the streams or man.

People have gone out of their way to stop the harvest of this valuable product while creating a toxic season of fire and smoke which is extremely harmful to wildlife and people alike. During the summer now known as the fire season people should be able to be outside enjoying the clean air but instead many days are spent inside due to the smoke from regional forest fires. I know I am one of those whose health is drastically affected by the smoke season.

I encourage the forest management as proposed and am glad to see the Forest Service finally once again begin to manage the bug killed and dying timber as well as harvest timber before it goes to waste. I encourage them to develop once again a pro harvest system that will make a healthier forest while putting people back to work.

Thank you

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,

Ron Smith

675 Cougar Ln

Stevensville, MT 59870

IdahoandBeyond@msn.com

