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Comments: Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to respond to your well researched Forest Plan revision proposal. I am inclined to favor alternative Z as providing the most protection for our public lands is imperative to future generations to come. In a world that is becoming more populated with ever increasing interests in outdoor activities it is extremely important that we continue protecting our natural lands not only for human interests, but species diversity, as well. I have had opportunities to see a wolverine in the lower Meadow Creek drainage, observe Harlequin ducks with ducklings at the mouth of a tributary of the Lochsa River, also seeing huge mule deer in the unlogged area above Slate Creek, Telephone Ridge area to mention a few.

While Alternative Z provides the most protection for our wild lands it, also, will not open up additional areas for motorized use which will be beneficial for elk habitat, but at the same time the Idaho Roadless Rules Area allows for use on current roads . I would like to see better maintenance of our existing roads as many are in need of repair to provide access to our recreational opportunities rather than increased road building for timber interests. Nation wide recreation in our National Forests are becoming increasingly more popular and create additional revenue for our communities.

Recognizing the importance of fire in our natural landscape if properly managed will help create better browse for elk and other species that need fire to propagate. However, with climate changes we need to consider the forest health and the value of diverse species. Some places where fire has been excessive are changing the vegetation that will grow back such as the Middle Fork of the Salmon. When a natural fire starts in the wilderness in early July from lightning it too frequently becomes very difficult to contain as the summer heats up in August. Thousands of dollars are then spent protecting structures and trying to contain it, also, changing the landscape. The East Fork of Moose Creek is an example. I look at wilderness areas to help clean our air, water, etc... Much like the Amazon Rainforest on a smaller scale.

I appreciate the hard work that is going into the Land Management Plan . I will be looking forward to following the responses, comments, and updates. Thank-you