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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your Draft Forest Plan revision. I am a retired Forest Service employee with 37 year of line and staff experience in Regions 1, 2 and 5, most of that as a wildlife biologist. I am particularly interested in your Plan because I started as a Forestry Technician on the "old" Kelly Creek District.

I support recommending as much of the Great Burn for Wilderness designation as possible. I consider the Great Burn to be a critical Core Area linking the Bitterroot and Northern Continental Divide Ecosystems and is especially important for Grizzly Bear Recovery and as wolverine habitat. Wilderness classification would also help maintain pristine habitat conditions for fish in the Kelly Creek drainage.

I do not support your proposal for allocating much of the Great Burn for snow mobile use. There are enough areas available for snowmobiles without jeopardizing an area with such a high potential as Wilderness. Although I understand the snowmobiler's argument that they are there only when there is snow cover, but permitting their motorized use will only weaken the argument when other motorized recreationists demand similar access during snow-free periods.

When considering large-scale habitat connectivity that is relatively free from human disturbance, the Great Burn is a logical core habitat linking other Wilderness Areas such as the Bob Marshall Complex and the Cabinets with the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area.