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Comments: Thank you for compiling a comprehensive DEIS that seeks to address the complex and contentious land use issues within the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. Balancing competing issues and come up with a solution that pleases everyone is not an easy job.

My comments focus on the area I am most familiar with in the NPCNF, the Recommended Great Burn Wilderness. Few places remain in our country that are contiguous with other protected landscapes and that still provide habitat to many of the same species that Lewis and Clark saw in the area over 200 years ago. Most of the other landscapes like the Great Burn left in the continental U.S. have either been designated as Wilderness or fragmented so much that they are no longer eligible for designation.

Carving out sections of the Great Burn for snowmobile use or allowing nonconforming motorized uses within this recommended wilderness, as is outlined in several of the alternatives presented in the DEIS, would harm the area's wildlife populations. It would displace mountain goats and cause population declines, and negatively impact other sensitive species that use the Great Burn as a critical migration corridor, like grizzly bears, wolverines, and lynx.

Please do not open any portion of the Great Burn to snowmobiles. Instead, please protect the entire area as wilderness and prevent the decline of the area's wildlife.