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First name: Michael

Last name: Edmondson

Organization: Elk City Ambulance

Title:

Comments: I am a 45 year resident of Elk City, veteran, business owner and property owner.

PERSONAL USE OF THE FOREST:

I and my family have used the surrounding forest (*Nez Perce N.F.) during that entire time, which uses have included: backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, sponsored equine endurance rides, 4 wheeling, motorcycling, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, camping, fishing, prospecting, mining activities, historical exploration, logging, post and pole extraction, firewood gathering, huckleberry & blackberry picking, mushroom harvesting, gravel and rock procurement, yew wood harvesting, shooting, hunting, pine cone harvesting, special use permit holder, lookout tower over-nighting, trail maintenance, etc., to name a few. I live in the heart of the Nez Perce N.F. I literally cannot leave my home town of Elk City without passing through some portion of the forest. It is not a place I go to; it is a place I live in.

I have recreated, hunted, explored or prospected in the Frank Church and Gospel Hump Wildernesses, Idaho Roadless Rule Areas, the Salmon, Snake, Middle Fork Clearwater, Meadow Creek and most all the drainages that lie within the South Fork Clearwater River Basin.

PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT WITH FOREST PLANNING:

I have actively participated in this forest plan revision and attended/participated in innumerable forest actions over the past 45 years.

ECONOMIC/SOCIAL/CULTURAL DYNAMICS:

As a business owner (Elk City Hotel & Gift Shop, LLC), we are critically dependent on a multiple use range of access and use by the public in order to operate, sustain and continue this family business into the future. Whereas some small amount of our revenues are from local sources, more than 95% are generated from "outside" folks physically coming to or passing through this location.

Further, the community of Elk City pre-exists any national forest. The fact that our township is completely surrounded by the Nez Perce N.F., through no action or fault of our making, has made it entirely hostage to actions and decisions that occur on that forest. The forest has an obligation to insure that this proposed plan must not result in detrimental economic, social or cultural impacts to those who call Elk City and surrounding communities home. Rather than simply mitigate impacts to our community, the forest has an obligation to enhance and develop actions that result in positive contributions to the economy of our area.

DEIS ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

The DEIS Action Alternative I support is: Alternative X

I strongly support a multiple use approach to all management on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

I strongly support timber harvest, mining, outfitting, hunting, recreation, etc. activities that provide local jobs, cash flows to communities, tax revenues that support schools, roads and county services.

I strongly support active development of mineral location and extraction vital to the economic and national security interests of our country. The forest needs to create an atmosphere friendly and encouraging to exploration and development to counter the current stranglehold held by China and other foreign countries.

I strongly support active vegetation management for economic, fire suppression, wildlife, recreational and

species diversification needs.

I strongly support the forest plan expand motorized vehicle access for recreation and other uses. All forms of increased access should be expanded.

I am strongly opposed to any more additions to proposed wilderness areas or proposed wild and scenic river designations. This area already composes the largest contiguous wilderness area in the lower 48 states. Further expansion is detrimental to other forest management priorities and uses. Further, any current proposed wilderness or wild & scenic should not be managed as de facto wilderness or wild & scenic, but should be managed in some other form as to allow/maximize multiple use activities that are historical or endemic to it, including, but not limited to, motorized uses, mineral location, vegetation management, etc. The South Fork Clearwater River should never, ever be considered for W & S designation. That corridor is the only year round access to Elk City. Further, the potential unintended negative impacts to all human activities on or upstream from the south fork are significant. It would also obstruct/limit management options available to the forest.

PERSONAL OBSERVATION OF THE NEZ PERCE FOREST DURING THE PAST 45 YEARS:

When I came to Elk City in 1975, the Nez Perce Forest was vibrant and the surrounding communities and county was youthful and flourishing. People were in the forest using it, whether to make a living, recreate, escape, hunt, etc. There was substantial use from not only locals, but from all over the country. Today, forest use is a shadow of what it was. Certainly there are a number of factors involved, but the "welcome" mat was removed in the 90s and the "do not disturb" sign hung in it's place. Ideology replaced use. It's time to get back to an active management mindset.