

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/20/2020 5:06:58 PM

First name: Linda

Last name: Deschaine

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Draft Revised Forest Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I care about the future of Idahos public lands and wildlife, and it is important to me that the Forest Service responsibly balance conservation and other uses of the forest.

I am disappointed to learn that some of the alternatives under consideration would remove wilderness protections from the Great Burn area (i.e., the Hoodoo Recommended Wilderness). The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has observed that illegal snowmobiling and snow biking may be negatively affecting the forests mountain goat populations. To safeguard this iconic Idaho species, the Great Burn should continue to be managed as wilderness.

To retain valuable wildlife habitat and connectivity, the Mallard-Larkins and Meadow Creek areas should also be recommended and managed as wilderness. The Mallard-Larkins area provides outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation, and the Meadow Creek area supports an incredible diversity of fish species and wildlife.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the management and future of our lands and wildlife in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.