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Comments: I have recently reviewed the released Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Plan Revision Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Revised Forest Plan. None of the alternatives presented reflect the management I would like to see implemented for the Hoodoo Roadless Area. Please accept these comments into the formal record.

Hello,

I am a Certified Montana Master Naturalist, as well as a volunteer in safely introducing hikers and campers to our beautiful natural areas in Montana, especially those that are quiet. You can call me a quiet user, and places that are indeed quiet (no intrusive motorized sound or vehicles) are getting harder and harder to find. I work hard to help forest and wildland visitors understand and practice ethics to leave nothing behind and take nothing but photos and memories.

The Hoodoo Roadless Area (aka the Great Burn) is a rare gem of a place. Shrinking the Great Burn Recommended Wilderness and allowing motorized and mechanized use would have huge negative implications for quiet recreation and might be devastating for several sensitive wildlife species, including wolverines, lynx, grizzlies, and mountain goats. The area was "left to recover in the aftermath of the great fire, and this resulted in rich habitat, subalpine like conditions in the high country, open meadows, ridges spotted with enormous bleached snags, creating pristine alpine lakes, open ridgelines, luxuriant forests, and wild rivers and streams." (the words of Allison deJong, who describes the place with clarity and accuracy beyond my own talents). I would add that the management that has left this area unmolested by motorized travel and logging is a great example of how to manage it for resilience, both for human visitors and for the biodiversity that has taken hold there.

If motorized travel served to create a new, replacement space for the one that is there, it would not be a problem, would it? But of course, it destroys and removes this unique expanse of habitat forever.

I oppose the Nez Perce-Clearwaters recommendation to allow winter motorized access in the Great Burn and its decision to consider shrinking or eliminating recommended wilderness. I support managing the entire expanse as Wilderness, continuing to give it protection from destruction by man.

We need areas like this to be protected for the health of the planet and the living creatures on it for generations to come. We need areas like this for our own sanity. Please do not destroy them.

I cannot stress enough, the power of quiet recreation that helped me stay strong to care for my husband through cancer and multiple surgeries. The Great Burn, specifically Kid Lake, is on my list to visit, once the Covid 19 danger has passed and we can travel freely again.

I support that the entire 151,874 acre Hoodoo Roadless Area be managed as Recommended Wilderness, with the goal of adding to our US protected Wilderness areas in the future. And I also support the guidelines of managing Recommended Wilderness as if the area is already Wilderness (no compromise to mechanical means of travel).

The Hoodoo Roadless Area should remain non-motorized! This means, of course, NO WINTER MOTORIZED ACCESS! Winter is a time of stress for the wildlife as it is. The limits of human powered travel into a winter landscape helps prevent added stress for both hibernating and winter active wildlife. A hibernating bat, for example, will likely starve to death if disturbed even once before food is available, and you must know how

beneficial bats are both in pest control and pollination. That is just one example. Snow machines are not lacking in areas to use for recreation. Please, please, do not introduce them into the mix in this place!

I understand that Cayuse Creek, Kelly Creek and all of its forks are worthy of Wild and Scenic River status. We need to protect such waterways for native fish populations and the biodiversity that flourishes along the waterways and canyons. Such clean waters cannot be created by man. We need to preserve and protect them rigorously.

Please consider Dark Sky status for this area, as well. So many birds migrate at night, and as I am sure that you know, human sourced lights can make their migrations more difficult and often unsuccessful. People are seeking dark sky areas, too, and earning this status would invite more resilient recreation.

Thank you for listening to people like me. Work hard to protect and preserve this area for the sake of our nation, the earth and for generations to come. Thank you for adding protection to a place for quiet recreation.