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Organization:

Title:

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.

My name is Bill Hopkins, I live in Bozeman. As a teenager growing up in Spokane, I had several opportunities to visit the Great Burn on backpacking trips with my scouting troop and later, with friends. These trips were formative events in my life and helped make me who I am today. We referred to the Great Burn as "the Bitterroots", but no matter. As the nearest true wildlands to my home, I benefited greatly from our visits.

Two experiences: I saw my first grizzly bear in the area above Heart Lake, truly a memorable moment for me and my hiking partner. Fortunately, both parties kept their respective distance and carried on. I also believe I saw my first wolverine in the Great Burn. The animal was somewhat screened by brush, but to this day, I'm reasonably certain that it was an incredibly rare and shy wolverine.

My strong preference is to protect the entire Hoodoo Roadless Area and that it be managed as Recommended Wilderness. Wild lands are a true refuge in these times and we need look no farther than the current health crisis to understand the importance of such places.

Wildlife. Elk, bears, wolverines, badgers, lynx, mountain goats etc. require untrammelled acreage in which to survive the long Montana winters. The introduction of over snow vehicles into the Hoodoos area will further stress these and other species.

As a teenager, I had the opportunity to fish Kelly Creek and learned to love the beautiful native, and endangered, cutthroat trout. Recognizing Cayuse and Kelly Creeks as Wild and Scenic would help protect these fish.

I would encourage NPCNF staff to recognize the value of roadless, non-motorized landscapes. With the constant expansion of civilization, places like the Great Burn are harder and harder to find. In years to come, the decision rendered soon will have profound effect on the quality of life for all visitors to the Great Burn.

Thank you for the work you do and for providing me and others, a chance to comment.