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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.

Im an avid hiker and backpacker in Montana. Im not a native Montanan, but a flat lander who ventured west. The wildness of the Great Burn and the relative solitude one can find there are such precious gems. Many of my favorite trails are there, like a mini alpine wonderland that only the true connoisseur will ever know. I love that there are many parts of the Hoodoo Roadless Area I wont ever see, because those areas are for the wildlife that need it so badly.

One of my favorite hikes is the Stateline Trail. To walk that ridge knowing you are straddling an arbitrary marker of man, but look around you and see the same land. To the wildlife there are no lines, there is only safe habitat. It feels like youre standing on top of the world, looking down on lakes and creeks from that vantage point. I sit on a bluff overlooking everything and hear nothing but wind through the trees. Its the most peaceful and humbling of experiences.

I would love to see the Hoodoo Roadless Area continue to be managed as recommended wilderness. I would truly love for it to be designated a National Wilderness, but I realize thats likely many years from now. As everything around us becomes more developed I believe its imperative to continue to protect the few wild places we have left. The Great Burn is certainly a precious one.

I cant say it more clearly than Ed Abbey, wilderness is not a luxury, but a necessity of the human spirit. To introduce motorized access to the Hoodoo Roadless Area is to pander to human whims. For the wildlife that rely on that area it should remain non-motorized and for our own psyches it should remain a place of solitude uninterrupted by the audio presence and very visual evidence of other humans.

The forest plan should designate Cayuse Creek, as well as Kelly Creek and all its forks as Wild and Scenic. As blue ribbon trout fisheries they are important to the heritage of all Westerners who call themselves outdoorsmen. Trout, and the fishing of, are a symbol of how we can all work together to keep our water pristine and our recreation based economy strong. Ive recently become friends with a fly fishing guide and very quickly learned that trout fishing is more than a sport. It consumes people. Its a spiritual interaction with the landscape which might explain it being a key reason many people come to our states just to fish. To designate these creeks is to safeguard the continued population of trout and the people that depend on them.

I really cant stress enough how wonderful and special this area is and how badly it needs to remain protected. I really hope the forest plan does the right thing for the land, not for profit. Money is temporary, but this wildness should live on for generations.

I know it must be an arduous task to try to bring together so many opposing opinions and ideas. Thank you for taking the time to consider so many sides and to bring about a forest plan that is right for the land in question and the people who care about it.