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Organization:

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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.

The Great Burn must continue to be protected not only for the species that call that area home, but for the generations yet to come to enjoy and protect.

I went on my first backpacking trip in the Great Burn as a freshman at the University of Montana. I was stunned and humbled by the vastness of the land and mountains that make up what we know as the Great Burn. After three days of weaving through its' creeks and meadows, I began to feel the anxiety of the upcoming year dissipate. These worries were replaced by the cheerful tune of songbirds, the sound of the slight evening breeze grazing the pines, and the rhythmic stomping of my classmates as we hiked mile by mile through the Great Burn. Our college guides were thorough in their explanations and encouragements of practicing Leave No Trace protocols as recreators on public land. I have always thought fondly and remembered what I learned on this trip during subsequent hikes and backpacking trips to the Great Burn.

That first trip was incredibly grounding for me, not only as a freshman in college but as a newcomer to Montana. It instilled in me a respect for the public lands that we Montanans hold dear and the desire to help protect these areas for years and years to come.

I stand by the Montana Wilderness Association and agree that the entire 151,874 acres of the Great Burn continue to be managed as Recommended Wilderness.

The proposed 53,000 acres in the Hoodoo Roadless Area is home to countless species that depend on its' resources to live. To open those acres to motorized vehicles, even if only during the winter, would be to put at risk and sacrifice the survival of many of these species. It is simply not worth it.

I stand by the Montana Wilderness Association and agree that Cayuse Creek, as well as Kelly Creek and all of its' forks, be protected by the Wild and Scenic River status.

I would like to see the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest continue to protected to the utmost degree.

I would like to thank the forest planning team for your time and efforts to protect this beautiful land. Your work is incredibly appreciated.