

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/20/2020 6:40:18 PM

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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.

My name is Norm Williamson. I'm a CPA, husband and father from Missoula. I have spent many summer hours exploring the interior of the Great Burn Recommended Wilderness Area. It is truly a special and unique place that deserves protection.

My first introduction to the Burn was many years ago. I hiked the Chilcoot Pass loop from Clearwater Crossing. Climbing up Straight Creek, the terrain opened up. A beautiful waterfall, open meadows and terrain every bit as spectacular as Glacier National Park. After reaching Chilcoot Pass I proceeded to get lost en route to the West Fork trail. Hours later I found the trail and marvelled at the massive cedars surrounding me. I returned to the trailhead feeling like I'd had a true wilderness experience, despite having only been out for a day hike. We need places where we can get lost and be in awe of the natural beauty around us. Increasing access and opening the Burn to more motorized usage destroys those opportunities.

I would like to see the Great Burn protected as a true wilderness area. The fact that this hasn't happened in the many years since it was first proposed as wilderness is baffling to me. Without a doubt, the Burn possesses all of the Wilderness Act criteria in abundance. No place better exemplifies the melding of historical significance, natural beauty and opportunities for solitude.

Increasing winter access impairs the wilderness character of the area. Such access is potentially threatening to the mountain goat population and other wildlife that calls the Burn home. The Burn is the one place where I can reliably go and be assured of seeing mountain goats. Gas fumes, noise pollution and year-round access destroy the pristine nature of this place and make opportunities for solitude largely nonexistent. A couple years ago, I hiked to Kid Lake. As I was exploring the area surrounding the lake, I jumped on a large boulder, looked down and saw the rusted out body of a snow-mobile. I do not relish the thought of seeing more of that in the future.

The rivers on the Idaho side of the Burn are also unique. The difficult access makes them sought-after gems for the truly devoted folks that are willing to expend the effort. I recall swimming in both the North Fork Clearwater and Kelly Creek on the same day. The difference in water temperature was readily apparent. Later, as we were swimming and fishing on Kelly Creek, my wife and son called out from the other side. I looked over and saw an "ocean of orange." I've never seen salmon like that before. It was truly amazing.

I would love to see the Fish Lake area closed to motorized access. As one hikes from the Montana side into this area the distinction between protected and accessible becomes readily apparent, and not in a good way.

I appreciate the efforts of the forest planning team to develop this plan. A formidable task, given pressures from multiple interests regarding the best usage of this unique area. My greatest hope is that the final plan will emphasize preservation of that uniqueness.