

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/20/2020 9:12:14 PM

First name: Margaret

Last name: Mallette

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.

I am a retired middle school counselor in Frenchtown, MT and the Stateline trail and the Great Burn area are favorites for hiking and cultivating mindfulness. The wildness and yet accessibility of this natural area is precious. I cannot imagine the impact of trying to hike with motorized vehicles disrupting the silence and damaging the terrain. Please keep this area as wild as possible. I know Montana values wild space and maybe people think there is a lot of it but we cannot risk letting it shrink. Once gone it can never be regained as wild again. We carry the beautiful wild places not just for Montana residents but we have a responsibility to carry them beautifully into the future for the benefit all beings.

I hiked on the Stateline trail along the ridge on a day shortly after my mother died and the experience of being on the ridge top looking out over the lakes, valleys and mountains on both sides gave me peace and I felt my mother's presence and our shifting from a long relationship with each other in life to a new relationship with each other after her death. Wild spaces offer that kind of incredible impact on the lives of people who tread there.

I would like to see the Great Burn protected as roadless and managed as "recommended wilderness".

I actually do not have as strong an opinion about winter motorized vehicle access as long as it is on snow and not directly disturbing the ground but I would want it to remain roadless. I do think the wildlife would prefer roadless....

I don't know much about the rivers being recommended as Wild and Scenic but as a person who is an avid kayaker I treasure keeping any river with scenic value still available in wild condition to be protected as such. There will be a day in the near future when water will be fought over wild and scenic rivers will become an "endangered species". Protecting what we can now will help us keep precious wild and scenic rivers in existence.

No comment

To the forest planning team who is taking time to read all the comments and letting us give voice to our needs

and concerns, THANK YOU. I was formerly married to a District Ranger and I know the sincere efforts that go into such plans.