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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.

Montana is one of the last places where true wilderness can be experienced. Growing up hiking in the Cabinets has shown me how life changing it can be. My non-Montana friends are always inspired and in awe of what we have near Libby, even those that travel the world frequently. Reducing wilderness area reduces what is special about Montana.

I'm not a frequent visitor to the Nez Pierce, but it is a phenomenal area that deserves protection.

At a minimum I would like to see the entire area retain its protected status. Adding more area where it makes sense is really what I wish to see. There are many areas in the state that see little use that could be claimed for endangered species and enjoyed by responsible recreators.

Motorized recreational vehicles are some of the worst maintained, loudest, and most polluting vehicles out there. Allowing these vehicles into wilderness and roadless areas at any time of the year increases the pressure on the ecosystem. Particularly during winter months when especially sensitive animals like the wolverine are at their prime, the areas need to be protected. There are many areas that can be used for motorized recreation, but not many left that can be kept pristine for the sake of our animals.

Water is what makes our life possible at all. We have seen that small amounts of pollution and deviation in water levels or temperatures can have devastating effects on fish. Introducing hatchery fish has been shown to be more harmful to population recovery than helpful, not to mention very expensive. Allowing as many waterways to return to a natural state of being as possible will help animals and recreators alike.

We should always work to find a balance between environment, production, and recreation. However, our roadless and wilderness areas are a precious resource. They should never be considered for monetary purposes. Their value is beyond any amount that could be had in the whole of human history. Without these protected areas, our state will lose the beauty of land and animals that makes Montana the best state.

The Forest Service is not an easy place to work. I've done it myself and both my parents made careers out of it. I hope you can find a way around the politics that shackle your hands and silence your voices. Thanks for everything that you do.