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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft management plan for the Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest.

I first paddled the Lochsa River and South Fork Clearwater River in 1991. These rivers are definitely worthy of Wild and Scenic River status. It was Idaho's wild rivers that drew me back to the state time and time again. I eventually moved here and decided to raise my family here. Having wild country and wild rivers to explore is an irreplaceable asset. Idaho is one of the last best places for these types of experiences.

I didn't realize it at the time, but the reason this wild country and the wild critters that inhabit them were still here is because of the safeguards provided by the Forest Plan. The Forest Plan helped protect Recommended Wilderness Areas and the wildlife that thrive there from motorized incursions. Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers remain pristine because of the Forest Plan. I have not had the chance to kayak the Little North Fork of the Clearwater but I have friends who have told me tales of the crystal clear water, waterfalls and tall trees. Please keep this watershed intact, even if I never get to see it myself.

I had several amazing days of kayaking on the South Fork of the Clearwater River in the spring and fly fishing in the summer and would love to go back and try for a steelhead in the fall.

Please maintain, enhance or expand these safeguards and do not roll back protections for any of the Great Burn area. I support the snowmobile closures there. I am particularly concerned about recent studies that show that winter recreation pressure can make areas less suitable for wolverine. It also appears that mountain goats can also be negatively affected by recreation activities. As such, the Forest Service should retain or expand safeguards for these species and continue to limit motorized recreation activities in these special places.

Having both East and West Meadows Creek Protected as Recommended Wilderness would best protect that entire watershed and the salmon and steelhead that live there. The Mallard-Larkins should also be protected as Recommended Wilderness.

Thank you for considering these comments and for the work you do to steward our public lands.