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Title:

Comments: Comments on Nez Perce-Clearwater NFs Forest Plan Revision #44089

Dear Zach Peterson,

Here are more comments on Draft EIS for NPCNF management plan revision - beginning with the end of the article about how there currently is a Mega-Drought in the Interior West of the USA!

&quot;of course, the western USA is home to more than 70 million people who weren't here for the previous medieval megadroughts. The implications are far more daunting.

University of Michigan environment dean Jonathan Overpeck, who studies southwestern climate and was not part of the study, calls this drought "the first observed multidecadal megadrought in recorded U.S. history."

To identify past droughts, scientists studied thousands of tree rings to find out how much - or little - rain fell hundreds of years ago. Scientists used historical data in combination with several computer model simulations to reach their conclusions.

One additional worrisome fact from the study was that the 20th century was the wettest century in the entire 1,200-year record. It was during that time that the population boomed in the western U.S., and that has continued.

&quot;The 20th century gave us an overly optimistic view of how much water is potentially available,&quot; said study co-author Benjamin Cook, a NASA climate scientist, in a statement.

&quot;It goes to show that studies like this are not just about ancient history,&quot; he said.

&quot;They're about problems that are already here.&quot;

The study was published Thursday in the peer-reviewed journal Science.

Contributing: The Associated Press

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/04/16/drought-worst-western-megadrought-here-study-says/5145929002/> &quot;

Common sense would dictate this, but apparently it needs to be specifically stated that ROADLESS AREAS, EXISTING plus POTENTIAL WATERCOURSE (or segment thereof) additions to the national WILD & SCENIC RIVERS ACT, as well as CURRENT as well as PROPOSED RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS must be specifically withdrawn from the timber base and that logging be disallowed in these vital and sensitive habitat areas.

Grizzly bears barely get a mention in the management plan revision - despite it being obvious that this Idaho wildlands complex (especially the in the Selway-Bitterroot designated Wilderness plus the adjoining Frank Church / River-of-No-Return Wilderness) are the prime recovery area to allow this struggling species to not only survive but thrive.

I call for the Final EIS on the NPCNF Forest Plan revision to include internal agency e-mails (by USFS and USDA) to indicate how much collusion and ignoring of the law there was in e-mail exchanges which resulted in the decision to shoot wolves, a species which keeps ecosystems in balance, even though there was an impending court victory to stop the carnage.

I am disappointed that the USFS apparently sees no problem with the major increase in human visitation in recent years -- despite such visitation being such a threat to the rare intact ecosystem you are supposed to be protecting. The USFS needs to specifically analyze cumulative impacts from such!

Sincerely,  
Bruce Campbell  
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