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First name: J

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Plan Revision Comment

Forest Planners,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment about the precious public lands to which you are entrusted.

I am a back-country enthusiast frequently exploring our wild-lands via canoe and backpack. I also engage in 'side-country' alpine touring and nordic skiing. And as often as all the aforementioned taken together, I mountain bike.

For all roadless areas the forest plan should recognize and honor the Idaho and Federal Roadless Rules which prohibit resources extraction and mandate preservation of wild character.

To the utmost, I wish to convey that the back-country, particularly Recommended Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas should under no circumstances be subject to any motorized or mechanized uses. They must be maintained and protected in a wilderness state for future Wilderness designation. The Forest plan should abide by the current travel management plan in not allowing any non-conforming uses in Recommended Wilderness.

Motorized and non-motorized/mechanized intrusions in or near the Great Burn area are a concern. Any existing areas and trails that may currently be used by wheeled and over-snow vehicles should not be expanded, rather they should be more restricted and reduced, and importantly more strict enforcement applied. This is to reduce the disturbance of goats, wolverine and the area's unique location as a conduit for grizzlies.

Of special note about evolving user modes is mountain bikes in all areas of the forest because they uniquely create hazardous conflicts by quickly & quietly rolling up on wild animals and hikers, and are especially a hazard to horseman and packers. Restricting areas and trails to hiking, skiing and horses is the best manner to reduce conflicts. And those restrictions must applied forest-wide, with the areas/trails of exception signed as such. Meaning: Closed to motorized/mechanized uses unless signed as open.

As I said: I am a devout mountain biker, but I do not support bikes in back-country areas, especially areas and trails with non-motorized/non-mechanized designations. No new routes, nor routes closed through the recent travel plan or litigation should be re-opened to any motorized or non-motorized mechanized uses.

Additionally, the existing Recommended Wilderness boundaries should be maintained and not changed in any way to accommodate motorized or non-motorized mechanized uses.

Thank you for your time and attention.

John Wolverton

April 19th, 2020

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