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First name: Kent

Last name: Borges

Organization:

Title:

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

Dear Zach Peterson,

As an American citizen and taxpayer concerned with the preservation of forests and wilderness in this country, I have the following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Plan Revision.

First, the Citizen Conservation Biology Alternative submitted by Friends of the Clearwater has my complete support and I request that it be fully analyzed as its own Alternative.

In addition, I feel strongly that any revised Forest Plan for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests must provide that all existing Wildernesses in the Forests will be maintained in accordance with the letter as well as the spirit and intent of the Wilderness Act. All roadless areas need to be protected so that they maintain the characteristics necessary to be designated as wilderness by Congress in the future and are protected by administrative non-motorized and non-mechanized backcountry designations. All roadless areas, existing and potential Wild and Scenic river corridors, and proposed and existing Research National Areas should be excluded from the suitable timber base and made off limits to logging.

The Forest Service should also limit mechanized access to provide secure areas for sensitive wildlife, including wolverines, grizzly bears and elk, and reduce erosion to streams, compaction of fragile soils, and the spread of invasive weeds. Wildlife linkage corridors need to be emphasized to allow animals to move unimpeded across the landscape, facilitating migration and genetic interchange. Clearcutting and other silvicultural prescriptions that leave large openings, which cause edge effects that fragment the landscape and adversely affect habitats for numerous species, should be curtailed. Fires, insects and disease should be allowed to perform their ecological functions within these Forests, particularly within Wilderness, roadless areas and other natural areas.

Water, Soil and Aquatic Resources need to be protected by maintaining and/or restoring the elements which characterize good native fish habitat and high water quality by including enforceable standards that protect clean and cold water and complex, connected and comprehensive habitats. Existing wetland and stream buffers and other protection measures, known as PACFISH and INFISH, should be maintained and improved. Meaningful and enforceable standards to protect soils, as required by law, must also be included.

Finally, the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Plan Revision must address climate change by reducing carbon emissions and promoting climate stability by emphasizing carbon storage in trees, down wood, and soils in the forest and reducing the use of motorized vehicles and fossil fuels.

Thank you for your consideration in this regard.

Sincerely,

Kent Borges

975 Terrace Cir

Colorado Springs, CO 80904