Dear Zach Peterson,

Please accept these comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Plan Revision.

I fully support the Citizen Conservation Biology Alternative submitted by Friends of the Clearwater & request that it be fully analyzed as its own Alternative. Why has the FS failed to analyze & include their Citizen Conservation Biology Alternative in the draft forest plan, despite approximately 10,000 comments supporting this plan during the initial scoping period. That is anti- democracy & unacceptable!

The forest plan revision for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests must:

* Administer existing Wildernesses as per the Wilderness Act, both the spirit and intent.

* Protect all roadless areas so they maintain the characteristics necessary to be designated as wilderness by Congress in the future. All roadless areas should be recommended for wilderness or protected by administrative non-motorized & non-mechanized backcountry designations. The FS should also limit mechanized access to provide secure areas for sensitive wildlife (wolverine, grizzly bear & even elk), & reduce erosion to streams, compaction of fragile soils, & the spread of invasive weeds.

* Address climate change by reducing carbon emissions & promoting climate stability by emphasizing carbonstorage in trees, down wood, & soils in the forest and reducing the use of motorized vehicles and fossil fuels.

* Exclude roadless areas, existing & potential Wild and Scenic river corridors & proposed & existing Research National Areas from the suitable timber base & make them off limits to logging.

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

* Allow fire to perform its necessary ecosystem rejuvenating function & also allow insects & disease to play their ecological functions. This is especially true within Wilderness, roadless areas & other natural areas.

* Curtail clearcutting & other silvicultural prescriptions that leave large openings, which cause edge effects that fragment the landscape. These openings adversely affect habitats for numerous species.

* Emphasize landscape connectivity by providing wildlife linkage corridors so that animals can move unimpeded across the landscape, facilitating migration & genetic interchange.

* Reduce the miles of roads to improve wildlife security and watershed integrity, while also providing good paying restoration jobs.

OUR Federal public lands like the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest belong equally to all Americans, the vast majority who desire the above safeguards!

Sincerely,
josie lopez
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