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First name: Bruce

Last name: Campbell

Organization:

Title:

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

Dear Zach Peterson,

Round 4 of my comments - make the e-mail address to which to send more visible and you wouldn't get all these separate comments!

Please make sure the NPCNF plan revision calls for protection of those areas which have habitat characteristics which make them eligible for designation -- either as a Wilderness Area, a national Wild & Scenic River, or another kind of protective status. And make sure those important wildland habitat areas are managed to control that out-of-hand species known as humans -- rather than allow them to disrupt the habitat for species of this globally significant region of "wet-belt" interior temperate rainforest region.

Seeing that the wild Clearwater area is the northern half of the "Big Wild" and forms the southern end of the "wet-belt" interior rainforest, that sure indicates that one could expect the Interior West mega-drought to expand north if there is a notable increase in fragmentation of forests either in the northern wetter part of this "Big Wild" area or near where the "wet-belt" interior rainforest borders its drier ecosystem type to the south. Sadly, the current revision for the NPCNF forest plan proposed a lot of fragmentation -- from road-building, logging, snowmobiles, ATVs, halving the area for protections in riparian areas, plus other human-related activities.

I note that since 1974, the State of Idaho has sought compliance with their minimum Best Management Practices detailed in "Rules Pertaining to the Idaho Forest Practices Act, Title 38, Chapter 13, Idaho Code". Those BMPs are focused on "maintaining high quality water in forested watersheds and keeping sediment from reaching streams."

If one was serious about protecting water quality, riparian areas, and the wild watersheds that feed such watercourses, then one would clearly disallow additional road-building, disallow any increase in logging, and not allow abusive vehicles like snowmobiles and ATVs to tear up the sensitive unique habitat of the Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest. But instead, the Forest Service seems intent on destroying habitat even for listed and rare species by proposing such an increase in logging and road-building and other damaging activities.

Appendix K includes a discussion about "Conservation Watershed Networks" where focus is supposed to be on habitat conservation within such watersheds to maintain its native fish and other aquatic species populations, plus help to restore neighboring watersheds to improve their habitat for native fish and other species. Certainly, there are "adjacent HUC12 watersheds" to a number of wildland streams and rivers which may not be a bastion for native fish currently, but which have major potential for restoration and production of such native fish.

I notice that the Research Natural Areas within the NPCNF tend to be quite small. Please see to it that the management plan revision call for the enlargement of most of all of the RNAs to better protect their unique species assemblages

Sincerely,

Bruce Campbell

10008 National Blvd # 163

Los Angeles, CA 90034