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First name: Ron

Last name: Buren

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forest Plans

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest Plan Revision Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I am a cattle producer in North Central Idaho, and I own and maintain a cow/calf operation with my family. I am a former board member of the Idaho Cattle Association (ICA), a past President of Nez Perce County Cattle Producers, and a member of both the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Idaho Farm Bureau. We have cattle that graze on public lands from June to October every year and have maintained the permit for twenty years.

I work closely with the Potlatch Ranger District office to manage our Round Meadow allotment permit annually. We also work with Potlatch Deltic Corporation, the state of Idaho, the US Forest Service and various privately deeded lands. Our operation supports recreationalists and big game hunters by utilizing cattle grazing to improve vegetation for wildlife and supporting the local use concept of forest lands.

Cattle are an excellent resource for Idaho's forests, as they help in reducing fires and promoting new growth. Our range area includes many mature timber and dying trees that are in need of harvesting to maintain forest health and decrease wildfire danger. We work with the Clearwater Timber Protective Association (CTPA) who has done an incredible job preventing and managing fires. We hope the USFS will continue to partner with CTPA to maintain control the fires in the area.

My family and I have many concerns about the DEIS and we support comments submitted by the Idaho Cattle Association and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. We support on the ground decisions made at the local level regarding the use of public lands, as well as the flexibility to increase the number of AUMs available on an allotment based on increased forage growth.

We look forward to working with the United States Forest Service in the future. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ron Van Buren

Van Buren Ranch, LLC  
vanburenranch@gmail.com  
208-791-4942