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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Our comments on draft plan

Dear Forest Service:

Please consider this message as our comment on the draft forest plan for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. I visited the NPC forest about 40 years ago, and I clearly remember its great wild lands. They belong to all the people of the United States as part of our national forest heritage.

We ask you to protect the entire Great Burn area as the Hoodoo wilderness and recommend it to Congress for wilderness designation. The Forest Service wisely closed the area to snow machines some years ago as a means of protecting habitat for mountain goats, wolverines, lynx and other species, and to protect its wilderness character. Please keep snow machines out of the Great Burn area!

We also favor wilderness designation for Mallard-Larkins, East Meadow Creek, and West Meadow Creek. These are units that have long been under consideration for wilderness status. Mallard-Larkins is a favorite destination for primitive backcountry recreation.

The 200,000 acres of East and West Meadow Creek harbor the most diverse assemblage of native fish in the Rocky Mountains, and they provide a habitat linkage between the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return wildernesses, which will help to protect the largest wilderness complex in the lower 48 states.

With respect to Wild and Scenic Rivers, we urge you to protect the North Fork and South Fork Clearwater Rivers as "wild and scenic". The North Fork is a tremendous cutthroat trout fishery, and one of Idaho's few B-run steelhead fisheries is found in the South Fork. Wild and scenic rivers designation would protect these free-flowing rivers from dams and water diversions.

Thank you for considering our thoughts.

Sincerely,

George and Frances Alderson

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