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Organization:

Title:

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

Dear Zach Peterson,

I would like to provide my comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Plan Revision. The alternative submitted by Friends of the Clearwater, known as the Citizen Conservation Biology Alternative, is excellent. I strongly urge the USFS to include and fully analyze as its own Alternative in the DEIS.

Specifically, the revised forest plan for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests must fully include the following critical actions.

1. Administer existing Wildernesses as per the Wilderness Act, both the spirit and intent.
2. 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 and non-mechanized backcountry designations. The FS should also limit mechanized access to provide secure areas for sensitive wildlife (wolverine, grizzly bear and even elk), and reduce erosion to streams, compaction of fragile soils, and the spread of invasive weeds.
3. 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.
4. Exclude roadless areas, existing and potential Wild and Scenic river corridors and proposed and existing Research National Areas from the suitable timber base and make them off limits to logging.
5. Protect Water, Soil and Aquatic Resources by maintaining and/or restoring the elements which characterize good native fish habitat and excellent 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, must be maintained and improved. Meaningful and enforceable standards to protect soils, as required by law, must be included.
6. Allow fire to perform its necessary ecosystem rejuvenating function and also allow insects and disease to play their ecological functions. This is especially true within Wilderness, roadless areas and other natural areas.
7. Curtail clearcutting and other silvicultural prescriptions that leave large openings, which cause edge effects that fragment the landscape. These openings adversely affect habitats for numerous species.
8. Emphasize landscape connectivity by providing wildlife linkage corridors so that animals can move unimpeded across the landscape, facilitating migration and genetic interchange.
9. Reduce the miles of roads to improve wildlife security and watershed integrity, while also providing good-paying restoration jobs.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment, and I thank you in advance for considering my thoughts.

Sincerely,

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