

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/26/2020 7:00:00 AM

First name: James

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Organization: Evergreen Forest

Title: Resource Manager

Comments: Re: Nez Perce - Clearwater Forest Plan Revision

Dear Mr. Peterson,

Evergreen Forest would like to comment on the Forest Plan Revision. Evergreen Forest is a purchaser of timber sales on the southern part of the forest near Riggins.

We feel that the current condition of the forest is an unhealthy condition and getting worse every year. The recent outbreaks of the Mountain Pine Beetle, Hemlock Looper, and Scolytus are all indicators that much of the forest is overmatured .and needs some of the trees removed. We encourage the use of temp roads .and regular timber sales. The USFS needs to do more in supporting local schools and county roads.

Another item that needs to be settled is the large Roadless Areas. A final decision needs to be made on these areas and hopefully managed. We do not need any more wilderness areas. The wilderness that we have is already too large and the trails providing access are so poorly maintained that it is lightly used.

In the last 10 years over 50% of the forest has burned. Some has been in wilderness areas which we usually have no control over, but the smoke from these fires makes it unpleasant for many local residents. We need to convert as many acres back to PP, DF, and WL which are more fire resistant. Opening our forest up will also help the big game numbers improve, however, I strongly feel that the Canadian Wolves are also largely responsible for the decline in their numbers.

We feel that by increasing the annual harvest levels on the Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest would make the forest more healthy and provide much needed jobs.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this revision.