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First name: Dan

Last name: Smith

Organization: Bennett Lumber Products Inc

Title: Forester

Comments: Dear Mr. Peterson:

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the Nez Perce Clearwater Forest Plan Revision. It is very important to all of us in the local communities, counties, businesses, and industries that depend on the Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest.

With a sustainable harvest of a least 200 million board feet per year we would be able to manage the disease, insects, and catastrophic fire that wastes such a valuable resource. We need to accomplish this management in the next 20 years. Allowing the salvage of timber within these areas should be in a timely manner.

The use of modern systems in logging, are going to be very valuable in the harvest of timber moving forward. Bunchers on steep line ground, tethered applications, and other methods will prove extremely valuable in the future of logging. Not only for safety in a dangerous occupation but for production, impact on the landscape, and less compaction of the soil if used properly.

With the amount of roadless areas and acres we already have, I am in favor of management that will treat those areas so they will not be lost to catastrophic fire, insects and disease. I am opposed to large areas of these acres put into the potential wilderness study allocation.

Wildlife is another issue that should be considered in this plan. Over the last few decades our big game population has dropped off substantially. Part of the reason for this is dense stands of timber with little forage for big game species. Proper management of timber and vegetation could be a huge player in the restoration of these animals in the Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this very important planning process for the future of the Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest, and our communities.

Sincerely,

Dan Smith

Bennett Lumber Products Inc.

Forester