

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/28/2020 11:00:00 AM

First name: Richard

Last name: Gould

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi Zach,

I wanted to comment on the forest plan, if it is not too late. I am a fourth generation Montanan, having worked as a logger and a physician. I have restored my family's homestead close to the Great Burn Study Area on the Montana side. Taking this into account, I have some wishes for the Nez Perce short and long term forest plan. I hope the higher elevations are kept roadless on the Idaho side, like the Montana side. The lower elevations may be managed for multi-use such as roads, snow mobile runs, 4 wheeler use, side by side touring, logging etc. The higher elevations, including the Idaho side adjacent to the Great Burn Study area, should remain roadless, and mechanical machines should not be allowed, including mountain bikes.

I have hiked extensively on the Montana and Idaho sides as well as logged. We need to preserve a wilderness like environment in some of these areas, which will enhance the survival of some of our most precious assets, such as wildlife, including mountain goats, which I see just about every time I go into the Great Burn and Idaho's Fish Lake. By preserving these wilderness areas, in addition to logging areas, we also diversify the economic options in our communities. A significant number of folks utilize our community restaurants, gas stations, outdoor supply establishments, and grocery stores in route to their enjoyment of the roadless areas in Montana and Idaho; the Great Burn and Nez Perce are no exception. Please consider my wishes in the new forest plan proposal. Thanks for the consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Gould, MD, FACS. MBA-HCM