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Comments: Zach,

As a previous wildlife habitat biologist for the USFS (Wallowa Whitman-Starkey in the 1970s) turned river outfitter, revisions of the Nez Perce - Clearwater Forest Plan is of high interest to me. Resource management activities that impact fish, wildlife, and my business are of special concern. With over half my business dependent on salmon and steelhead fishing, all of which are endangered and seriously facing extinction, avenues to help save them is critical at this time. Therefore, the potential of wild and scenic designation for all the free-flowing rivers identified by your team should be saved as such.

The federal agencies that are in charge of what happens to these fish, by choosing alternatives that do not include breaching of four Snake River dams, means that land management agencies need to take more serious action to help protect the watershed and fishery. When all managing agencies of the Columbia/Snake River are failing to take proper steps to help save fish, it increases the magnitude of importance for land management agencies to compensate for their lack of suitable measures.

It thereby makes what happens to every major watershed, from its free-flowing character to the amount of erosion that enters the spawning grounds so much more crucial for the recovery of all anadromous fish. Every effort to reduce sediment loads by designing timber sales accordingly is also critical. All roadless areas should be managed as such as they often contain primary spawning grounds and are ground zero for fish production.

Again, designating all eligible rivers for wild and scenic classification and maintaining the integrity of all roadless areas is the best option to manage natural resources to provide optimal habitat for future generations of salmon, steelhead, and people.

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