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Comments: The proposed forest plan will have serious negative effects on the physical environment of the Forest and on the wilderness values that are a legacy for ALL US citizens. The cutting emphasized in the plan will open up more forest acres to heating and drying effects that will accelerate global warming. Less tree cover more of the time will heat and dry the soil, reducing soil moisture storage and streamflows. This drying will change the entire ecosystem and alter future vegetation to drier and drier types eventually converting conifer forests to grasslands. The proposed plan will result in the drying out of one of the critical "sponges" that keep the entire Columbia Watershed healthy and flowing. As a soil scientist with over 45 years experience in the northern Rockies, I have watched forest practices, especially logging and thinning dry out the overall landscape.

A major flaw in the plan is the reduction of the proposed Great Burn wilderness area and the proposal to open up portions to motorized use, especially by motor cycles and snow machines. This area is owned by the ENTIRE population of the US and is not meant to be a private playground for locals without ethics. Motorized users have shown their true colors with a history of illegal entries, harassing wildlife and other forest users alike. The citizens of the entire country want their national forests to be forests, not tree farms. They want abundant fish and wildlife that can be viewed and enjoyed, not harassed by thrill seekers on loud, fossil-fuel burning caravans.

Please reduce or eliminate this current fad of making forests "safe" by thinning them which causes more harm than good. Please maintain the integrity of all roadless areas and old growth forests until congress reaches a final disposition for these lands.

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