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Comments: RE: The draft forest plan for the Nez Perce/Clearwater National Forest

There are multiple issues that have been proposed that would destroy this pristine and unique area. These are some of the major problems.

1. Only 17% of roadless country is recommended as wilderness, and the Great Burn is essentially halved.
2. Stream buffers are reduced by 50% to 66%, a major blow to steelhead, salmon, lamprey, bull trout, and cutthroat.
3. Enforceable Old-growth standards are abandoned. All old-growth forests would be subject to either clearcutting or damaging "thinning" projects.
4. Wildlife standards are basically nonexistent. This is a serious problem for grizzly bears, wolverines, and other rare mammals and fish.
5. Logging is planned to triple from the levels seen in the last several decades. This plan returns to the "big chop" of the 1960s, which would be a death knell for forest species like goshawks and fisher and for stream degradation which would impact imperiled salmon and steelhead.
6. Carbon stocks are not measured by the plan, nor are the potentially massive carbon emissions from logging estimated or addressed.

This plan will only serve to destroy this amazing and essential habitat. It cannot happen. Please go back and reassess this area, with the help of forest ecologists, wildlife biologists and other skilled scientists who can help create a plan that will provide for a safe, enduring and non-destructive way forward.

Thank you.

Alida Bockino

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