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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to object to the Nez Perce-Clearwater Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Final Forest Plan #44089.

I am a fourth generation Montanan, and my family homestead is at the base of the proposed Great Burn Wilderness. I have been hiking the Great Burn since childhood, and I am now 66 years old. I have entered the Burn in just about every portal. I have hiked in via the Great Burn 30-mile loop only to find someone illegally accessing Fish Lake with motorized vehicles. I value the solitude of wilderness. I also enjoy mechanical and motorized travel. However, the size of the Great Burn pales in comparison to the amount of country I have access to for mechanical and motorized vehicles travel already. Mechanized/motorized access to sensitive areas started with jeeps then motorcycles, snow mobiles, 4 wheelers, mountain bikes, side by sides, and electric bikes were added. There is always something new to put pressure on sensitive areas. However, will it stop? I am concerned this will encroach upon the sensitive areas even more as well as the solitude. In addition, I fear illegal travel to Fish Lake and other Idaho areas in the Burn will now be legal, and mechanical motorized access will extend illegally to the Montana side of the Burn because of this.

I have not reviewed the studies personally, but others site interruption of wolverine, goat, and potential Grizzly bear habitat in addition to snow mobile snow crush damage to vegetation. Concerns of others, such as old growth preservation and fuel reduction, have been successfully managed in the past with fire, allowing free burn. Lastly, multi-use does bring economic diversity to the surrounding counties. However, wilderness designation also brings economic diversity to the counties as well.

Therefore, I object to the preferred alternatives proposed management of the Hoodoo Roadless Area by allowing snow mobile and mountain bike travel. I advocate no shrinkage of the proposed Great Burn Wilderness area. Keep the Hoodoo Roadless Area (151,874 acres) as Recommended Wilderness, and I request completing the task of wilderness designation. I would like to see it before I die.

Thank you for considering my objection.