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Organization:

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

About thirty years ago I participated in a public hearing in Missoula about wilderness plans for Montana forests, and I spoke about the importance of genetic variation in natural environments as our environment changes rapidly. I specifically remember panelist(s) speaking about strong support for the Great Burn Wilderness. Since then I have hiked and camped many times in the Great Burn area in Idaho and Montana. Most recently, in 2021 my wife and I hiked along Kelly Creek and camped nearby. As always, I was impressed by the diverse forests and aquatic habitats in the Great Burn.

Recently I did not submit a comment about the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Plan because of recent health problems. Even so, I am very interested and concerned about the Forest Service plan.

I object to the preferred alternatives proposed management of the Hoodoo Roadless Area and the plan's lack of wildlife standards for wolverines and mountain goats. (Please remember that there are only about 350 wolverines in the Lower 48 States.)

The Forest Service should manage the entire Hoodoo Roadless Area (151,874 acres) as Recommended Wilderness. The Hoodoo Roadless Area provides important habitat for many sensitive species, especially near the Stateline, where this plan proposes removing sections of Recommended Wilderness.

Prohibiting winter motorized use in the Great Burn is critically important, as research has found that this use can detrimentally impact wildlife behavior and winter habitat. Additionally, the Forest Service must add binding wildlife standards to the forest plan to ensure species survival into the future.

Thank you for considering my objection.