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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.

The Great Burn holds a very special place for me and for my family. I moved to Montana in 1993 from the midwest, and had no experience camping or hiking in the backcountry. I went on my very first backpacking trip in the Great Burn that summer, and from then on, I was hooked. I never knew such spectacular and remote places like this still existed. Fast forward 20+ years and I took my 5 year old daughter on her first overnight backpack trip, also in the Great Burn.

I served on the board of the Great Burn Study Group (now the Great Burn Conservation Alliance) for 8 years and dedicated much time and effort to protecting this special place. I never dreamed that we'd lose 40,000 acres to motorized use. It's terribly sad to think of that loss and what it means to the area's ecological values and for the wildlife that call the area home.

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.

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.