

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/23/2024 8:05:06 PM

First name: George

Last name: Wuerthner

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As background I used to work on the Nez Perce Clearwater NF years as a forestry tech. I also have explored nearly all of the larger roadless lands on the forest and know first hand of their superlative values.

I object to the Nez Perce Clearwater NF plan. The plan does not provide adequate protection for the roadless lands in the forest. The NPCNF contains some of the largest wild lands left in the lower 48. These lands provide carbon storage, important wildlife and fishery habitat, a place for ecological processes like wildfire to operate, and incredible scenic and recreational values. These lands are not the nation's woodbox. The NPCNF should expand the lands protected under the plan.

The Bighorn Weitus is one of the largest unprotected roadless areas on the Forest. This should be a priority for protection.

This includes the Elizabeth Lakes area of the Mallard Larken Area, restore the entire protected lands in the Great Burn that were included in the 1987 Forest Plan, protect the entire Meadow Creek roadless areas both East and West, add protection for the North Fork Clearwater, Loshau Ace, Fish and Hungrany Creek, Rapid River, and proposed additions to the Buffalo Hump Wilderness.

I also believe the FS needs to do a better evaluation of the critical role the forest can play in carbon storage. Even severely burned forests store carbon for decades as the remaining snags from the 1910 Burn demonstrate. Protection of the forest from logging is in the national interest.