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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Nez Perce-Clearwater NF Collaborative Information on Recommended Wilderness

To who it may concern,

I have been following the 2012 Forest Plan Revision that is taking place in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest, and I would like to express my support in adding special management areas in the Great Burn that allow snowmobile use. Specifically open backcountry access. Sadly I have been unable to attend open meetings due to work obligations, but I hope my comment is considered.

Snowmobiles are a unique form of motorized transportation that leave little to no trace of their activity once the snow melts. Potentially less than hikers or horseback users. A great deal of the wildlife leave the deep snow cover of the higher mountain elevations for more hospitable conditions to winter. These are the areas that snowmobile users most frequent; minimizing contact and disturbance to wildlife. For these reasons I believe over-snow motorized vehicles deserve special consideration in these planning processes.

Furthermore, the Forest Service should not restrict access to areas based on wildlife disturbance unless there is scientific evidence to support the need to do so. I also urge those on the planning board to remember that by law, wilderness designations cannot be placed solely on the basis of an area being roadless. Therefore, areas identified within the Idaho Roadless recommendations should not be included in this plan to be managed as wilderness unless they meet all criteria set forth in the 1964 Wilderness Act. To do so would be against the intent of said legislation, and also the mission set forth by the US Forest Service.

For the record, I would like to note that most of the links to current documents on this revision plan on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest website are broken. This makes it difficult for citizens to provide relevant input on all aspects of the plan.

Thank you for your consideration of my comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

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