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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Regional Forester (Reviewing Officer)

Northern (R1) Regional Office

Attn: Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Plan Objection

26 Fort Missoula Road

Missoula, MT 59804

Thank you for the opportunity to object to the Nez Perce-Clearwater Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Final Forest Plan #44089. I commented twice earlier in the planning process (letters dated 10/04/2018 and 04/19/2020) regarding recommended wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers and non-motorized recreation opportunities. I object to the preferred alternative's arbitrary lack of wilderness recommendations for several areas which the EIS found suitable and manageable, as well as to the proposed management of the Hoodoo Roadless Area and the plan's lack of wildlife standards for wolverines.

Appendix E: Recommended Wilderness Inventory, Evaluation, and Analysis of the Final EIS makes strong cases for potential wilderness suitability and manageability for a number of areas, notable Bighorn-Weitas, Moose Mountain, portions of North Lochsa Slope and Pot Mountain. Despite these findings, these areas appear to have received little or no provisions for their wilderness and non-motorized recreational values in the final plan, without apparent justification. I object to these omissions: these areas should be managed as Recommended Wilderness, or at the very least as Primitive Non-Motorized.

I also object to the Plan's decision not to manage the entire 151,874 acres of the Hoodoo Roadless Area as Recommended Wilderness. This decision will force concerns about enforcement of illegal use further away from major roads, to the detriment of wildlife and primitive recreation experiences. It will also impact the manageability decisions for Lolo National Forest's portion of the Hoodoo Roadless Area. Prohibiting winter motorized use in the Hoodoo is vital to prevent negative impacts on wildlife behavior and winter habitat. Especially in light of the recent decision regard listing wolverines as endangered, this portion of the Plan needs to be modified to prioritize habitat, especially winter habitat, and the ecological integrity of the area.

I do commend the apparent addition of several small areas on the Palouse Ranger District designated Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, but I do not understand why the Feather Creek trails near Bovill were not so designated and I object to their omission.

Thank you for considering my objection.

Sincerely,

Andrew Frishman

Albion, WA