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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. 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.

I have concerns about the Nez Perce-Clearwater Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Final Forest Plan #44089, particularly regarding the Hoodoo Roadless Area and the Great Burn. While I haven't personally visited the Great Burn, its importance for wildlife, especially wolverines and mountain goats, is clear.

My main concern lies with the proposal to open parts of the Hoodoo Roadless Area and Great Burn to winter motorized use. Snowmobilers have already been illegally trespassing in these areas for years. Rewarding this bad behavior by officially designating snowmobile trails seems counterintuitive and detrimental to this fragile ecosystem.

Instead, I urge the Forest Service to consider an alternative management strategy called "edge matching." This approach can be shared with the adjacent Lolo Forest that is just beginning to formulate its own forest management plan. Edge matching aims to minimize conflicting uses by designating specific areas for motorized recreation while safeguarding sensitive wildlife habitat elsewhere. By applying this framework to the Hoodoo Roadless Area and Great Burn, we can ensure continued enjoyment for snowmobilers in designated zones outside of this area, while protecting precious wildlife corridors and undisturbed winter habitat within it.

Furthermore, I strongly advocate for adding binding wildlife standards to the forest plan. This would provide much-needed long-term protection for wolverines, mountain goats, and other vulnerable species.

Let's not reward trespass and risk environmental damage. By adopting a responsible management strategy like edge matching and prioritizing wildlife needs, we can strike a sustainable balance between recreation and conservation in these majestic forests.

Thank you for considering my concerns.