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Comments: My husband, Joe Rimensberger, and I are writing to object to part of the Draft Revised Forest Plan. Our big concern is the reduction in size of the Hoodoo Recommended Wilderness Area. This reduction is proposed in order to allow snowmobile and snow bike use in significant parts of the Great Burn area. Studies by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game have demonstrated that snowmobile use adversely affects mountain goat habitat and wolverines (recently designated as threatened under the Endangered Species Act) are also intolerant of high levels of motorized and mechanized use. Although mountain goats are not designated as a species of concern on the Nez Perce-Clearwater NF, they are so on the Lolo, just over the Montana border, so it appears that a more nuanced analysis would show that mountain goat populations and habitat in the Great Burn would be threatened by increased motorized and mechanized travel. Also, as climate change decreases the habitat suited to both of these animals, this area of appropriate habitat will only become more crucial to protect.

Please retain the Hoodoo RWA at its current size in order to protect these iconic animals of the Rocky Mountains. Most of the National Forests and other public lands in the US are open to snowmobile and mountain bike use, so keeping this area off limits will not be a significant loss to these users.