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First name: Michael

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To: Leanne Marten, Regional Forester

I reside in western Montana and have enjoyed recreating in the Great Burn recommended wilderness since I moved to the region several years ago. I am deeply disappointed with the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest's recently released ROD, which significantly reduces the amount of recommended wilderness in the area, apparently to appease local snowmobilers who've been accessing the area illegally for the past decade. I understand that this decision will simplify life for the Forest Service as you'll no longer need to defend your lack of enforcement of travel plans or deal with irate snowmobilers, but the decision ignores the high wilderness value of the area and the likely impacts of snowmobile use on local wildlife, particularly uncommon and/or threatened species like wolverines, mountain goats, and lynx. The decision also appears to ignore the unique significance of the area as a connectivity corridor between the NCDE/Cabinet-Yaak and the GYE recovery zones for grizzly bears and other wildlife. Local special interest groups should not be able to dictate how our national forests are used. These lands belong to the American public at large, not just to those who live close by, and I believe the region's wildlife and wilderness values are much more important than the desires of a few extreme snowmobilers. Please restore the forest's recommended wilderness to the full size it's been since the 1980s.

Sincerely,

Mike Young

Missoula, MT