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First name: Beth

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To National Forest Management:

I am deeply distressed over the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest's recently released ROD, which significantly reduces the amount of recommended wilderness in the area of the Great Burn, apparently at the behest of local snowmobilers—snowmobilers who've been accessing the area illegally, I would add! I am not a snowmobiler and never will be; nor are the many friends with whom I responsibly recreate here in western Montana, the Great Burn area being an important destination for us. This decision ignores the high wilderness value of this area—the beautiful mountains and streams that give it its character, and its role as habitat for threatened species like mountain goats, hoary marmots, wolverines, lynx, all of whom will be gravely impacted by motorized vehicle use. Wilderness provides these creatures with a secure space away from noisy and damaging human activities like snowmobiling. There are so many places where snowmobilers may go in Montana and Idaho, and few where it is possible for such rare wildlife to thrive. Also, what about the area's role as a connectivity corridor between the NCDE/Cabinet-Yaak and the GYE recovery zones for grizzly bears? It seems to me that local special interest groups with their bullying are being allowed to determine how our national forests are used—forests which belong to all of us. I beg you to restore the forest's recommended wilderness to the full size it's been for four decades!

Sincerely,

Beth Ann Rothermel

Montana resident