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First name: James

Last name: Claar

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am in strong support of managing the Great Burn Wilderness Study Area in its entirety as if it were federally listed as wilderness. That is to say I am against all mechanically assisted travel such as mountain bikes, motor bikes, snow mobiles and all other motorized equipment. And for the future, I hope the forest plan will support federally classifying the Great Burn as federal wilderness under the Wilderness Act.

At the same time, I hope your staff will try to coordinate with the Nez Perce-Clearwater forests to improve management of their portion of the Great Burn under conditions as described above.

The Great Burn in its primitive, undeveloped character provides many wilderness values for us as well as fish and wildlife. It is particularly important as connectivity habitat to facilitate wildlife movement of grizzly bears, Canada lynx, wolverine and many other species from the Northern Continental Grizzly Bear Ecosystem to and from the Bitterroot grizzly bear ecosystem. Your management of the Great Burn as a wilderness area is a primary contributor to the natural recovery of grizzly bears amongst the grizzly bear ecosystems.

Regarding the Rattlesnake Recreation Area, I would prefer to see these acres continue to be managed as they have for years under the previous management guidance. We have enjoyed hiking in this area, even though there is now much use. We do not appreciate all the mountain bikers many of whom go way too fast and occasionally you have to jump out of their way. At the same time keep mountain bikers in the Rattlesnake and do not allow them in the Great Burn area.

I have hunted big game on the Lolo Forest for over 50 years and really appreciate your management especially the road closure restrictions and trail maintenance.