

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/28/2024 12:01:16 AM

First name: Michael

Last name: Thomas

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a Benewah County resident that hunts and recreates within the project area, I encourage the St. Joe Ranger District (IPNF) to further consider using front-end obliteration or recontouring/obliteration on all new and temporary roads related to the project. Although convenient, gates and boulders are not effective in restricting motorized access, which can increase human-caused wildfire risk, spread noxious weeds, increase sedimentation in the watershed, and reduce elk and wildlife security within the project area. Compared to adjacent private lands, the Lacy Lemoosh project area encompasses a large amount of intact timber and cover for wildlife, which is unique within the upper Santa Creek and Charlie Creek watersheds. While the project may increase forage for elk and other wildlife, it may also displace them through new road construction and concomitant increases in recreational/hunting access. Overall, I am satisfied with the level of consideration and detail the IPNF has used in the environmental assessment regarding recreation and wildlife.