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First name: Laurita

Last name: Walters

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Protect Idaho's "Big Wild," Adopt New Citizen Proposal

Dear Forest Plan Revision Officials,

I understand that the proposed forest plan revision for the Nez Perce and Clearwater national forests would significantly decrease current protections for fish and wildlife. This represents an irreplaceable resource, which once gone, will never be matched. Please consider other options; it would be better to instead adopt the citizens' alternative prepared by Friends of the Clearwater.

The new forest plan needs to include clear and enforceable standards to ensure protection for the area's imperiled species like wolves, bears, lynx, wolverines, salmon and bull trout. These standards must be based on the best available science, which recognizes the critical importance of these wildlands in central Idaho.

The Forest Service must also protect all remaining roadless areas on these national forests. Due to past forest fragmentation and ongoing climate change, these unroaded areas are far more important as protected refuges for fish and wildlife than any other use or activity. The Forest Service must protect the remaining old-growth forests on these lands, as well as the area's rivers and streams, improving upon existing standards for water quality, rather than weakening these standards with loopholes, exceptions and unenforceable provisions.

Is the Forest Service here to protect the forest for the people, or for big business? If you're here for the people, please keep the forest for us now and for our progeny. Please protect the forest and keep it roadless and wild!

Please don't be rushed, cajoled or bullied -- or bought -- into sacrificing Idaho's most precious resource and heritage for immediate gain for the few already wealthy.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Laurita Walters
48 Haynes Creek Rd.
Salmon, ID 83467
US