Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/24/2014 5:50:51 PM
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Comments: Protect Idaho's "Big Wild," Adopt New Citizen Proposal

Dear Forest Plan Revision Officials,

I am writing to express my concern with the proposed forest plan revision for the Nez Perce and Clearwater national forests, which would significantly decrease current protections for fish and wildlife. I urge you 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. And 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. And 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.

Sincerely,

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