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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please protect the Wild in the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest

Nov 5, 2014

Forest Plan Revision Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests  
ID

Dear Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests,

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest is an American treasure, and along with a particular solitude, it offers us all recreation, and secure habitat for grizzly bears, wolves, and other wild animals.

My concern is with the current proposal for the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests revised forest plan. It would significantly decrease current protections for fish and wildlife. This is why 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. These standards must be based on the best available science, which recognizes the critical importance of these wildlands in central Idaho.

I believe 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 also develop a plan protecting the remaining old-growth forests on these lands, rivers, and streams, to improve upon existing standards for water quality, rather than weakening these standards with loopholes, exceptions and unenforceable provisions we would later regret.

The values that I, and many others, hold of protected wildlife habitat and improved non-motorized recreation opportunities must be thoroughly discussed in this process, and preserved by the new forest plan. We only have one world; we need to take care of it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ed Parks

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