

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/5/2014 6:06:23 PM

First name: Larry

Last name: Lambeth

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Forest Service Must Provide Protections for Public Land and 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 very special in providing solitude, recreation, and secure habitat for grizzly bears, wolves, and other wild animals.

I am deeply concerned with the current proposal for the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests revised forest plan, 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. Decreased protections would be poor management in the threat of climate change and habitat destruction. Less protection is simply unacceptable.

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

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 also develop a plan that protects 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.

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.

Stand strong to protect our public lands and national forests for habitat, wildlife, aesthetics, and future generations.

Sincerely,

Mr. Larry Lambeth
2635 W Alta St
Springfield, MO 65810-1308