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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Forest Plan Revision

I am writing to comment on your Forest Plan Revision for the Nez-Perce-Clearwater National Forest.

Please continue your management of recommended Wilderness in the Great Burn under the Proposed Action Option A for the Hoodoo (Great Burn) Roadless Area. The Bighorn-Weitas Roadless Area should also be given Recommended Wilderness status. Your Option A for the Hoodoo Roadless Area is the only viable option that guarantees traditional quiet recreation opportunities, protects critical habitat for sensitive species like mountain goats, wolverine, and fisher and provides connectivity for grizzly bears and other species between the Great Burn, Cabinet-Yaak and Crown of the Continent ecosystems. Connectivity between protected habitats is becoming more important as development increases on National Forest and adjoining private lands.

Option B should be discarded as it creates unenforceable boundaries in recommended Wilderness and will create a motorized recreation nightmare for both the Nez Perce-Clearwater and Lolo National Forests. I've seen many areas where snowmobile users have encroached into non-motorized areas adjacent to areas opened to motorized use. With declining Forest Service budgets enforcement of closures will be impossible.

I do ride a snowmobile and have enjoyed many areas on National Forest land that are now closed to snowmobile use and though I may not agree with all areas closed, I have personally seen the affects to wildlife (Mountain Goats and wolverine) of riding snowmobiles in areas where they should not have been allowed in the first place. With the new snowmobile technology there needs to be areas (designated Wilderness) and Recommended Wilderness where snowmobiling and other motorized use is not allowed. I currently ride a 2013 Polaris 600 PRO RMK.

Please chose Option A which will best protect recommended wilderness land and wildlife habitat. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Paul Olson
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