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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Keep wilderness options open in the proposed Great Burn Wilderness Area

Dear Supervisor Brazell:

I am writing to provide comments about the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Plan revision.

I worked for many years to try to protect the Boulder-White Clouds in Central Idaho as wilderness. Although Rep. Mike Simpson of Idaho introduced and supported the legislation, it did not pass because of the opposition of motorized users - most particularly snowmobilers and the Idaho State Snowmobile Association. They were successful in their operation because the bill would have closed areas currently open to them. Today, a Monument in the same area is opposed by many mountain bikers, because they have expanded their use in the proposed wilderness.

The Forest Service should not open any portion of the proposed Great Burn Wilderness Area to snowmobiles. If the agency does so, that is making the decision to prevent Wilderness designation in the political world where it is decided.

The agency just adopted a travel plan in 2011 that restricts motorized use in the Great Burn in order to protect the area and its wildlife. Doing away with these protections would harm wildlife and wilderness. It's also a slap in the face to members of the public who supported the 2011 travel plan.

I hope you will continue this recent support for protecting the Great Burn.

I support the expanded boundary for the proposed Mallard-Larkins Wilderness Area. The new boundary follows readily identifiable geographic features and enhances protection for wildlife and wilderness.

I also support the proposal for wilderness in East Meadow Creek. The Forest Service should expand the wilderness proposal to include West Meadow Creek in order to protect the entire watershed, its anadromous fisheries, and its cultural resources. Protecting only the east half sets up a management situation that splits wildlife habitat in two.

The Forest Service must also restrict motorized and mechanized use from all proposed wilderness areas on the forest in order to protect wilderness character and wildlife. If nonwilderness uses are allowed, then Congress will never designate these areas as wilderness.

Sincerely,

Linn Kincannon

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