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Comments:

I would like to recommend to the Forest Service to protect the few remaining roadless areas that remain, such as The Pioneers, Borah Peak and The Salmon-Chalis areas. The NorthSlope Pioneers has previously been recommended for protection. It is a stunningly beautiful area with beautiful rock formations and deep glacial valleys. It is so wonderful to hike into this area and to enjoy the quiet and solitude. I love this area for its unusual geologic formations and for its colorful rock peaks.colors. This area contains some of the most unusual and beautiful peaks, Hyndman, The Devils Bedstead and others too numerous the list. Allowing motor vehicles into an area like this causes echoing noise that can not be escaped because of the rock and valley configuration. Please keep this area as pristine as it is now so that my grandchildren will be able to enjoy the area as I have. My 11 year old grandson has already climbed up to The Pioneer Cabin and looked East, asking about how he can get over to Hyndman!

The Borah Peak, as the highest peak in Idaho, will make a wonderful addition to our state wilderness areas. Most western states have protected their highest peaks with wilderness designations. Notably Mt Witney, Denali and My Hood have this wilderness designation. Even though some of these peaks are close to urban areas their wilderness protection helps to preserve their special characteristics. Also protecting the highest peaks helps to regulate what activities are allowed. Motor vehicles are expressly excluded. Protecting the wilderness characteristics of areas close to urban areas is much more challenging than protecting our Borah Peak. We still have the pristine characteristics of quiet, solitude and roadless beauty.

In a more general vein Idaho has an opportunity to preserve our special areas that retain their wilderness characteristics. Roadless areas with wilderness characteristics should not be despoiled. We can not go back if we allow our pristine areas to be ruined for shortsighted development. Surely there is something more precious in wilderness that should exempt it from ruination by development. There may not be another opportunity to protect these areas.