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Comments:

The Salmon-Challis National Forest is the largest forest in the state, and contains some of its wildest remaining unroaded areas. I support permanently protecting them as wilderness for our future. As a longtime Idaho guide, I moved to Salmon and bought a house in 2016 because my partner and I wanted to build our family near our favorite outdoor places. We also wanted to invest in helping to strengthen a rural community. We were both born and raised in Idaho and left to go to Montana for school. We returned to Idaho because it is home to us, and because we can't imagine living anywhere else. A big part of our economic livelihood and our recreation is wrapped up in the wilderness areas of Central Idaho. Increasing wilderness helps us protect Idaho's most valuable and sustainable resource. With that said, it is also important to me that the USFS continues to consider how to fund local school districts and create economic opportunity in rural Idaho areas adjacent to wilderness. This is important work that must be partnered with the protection of our favorite outdoor landscapes.