

January 8, 2019

Salmon-Challis National Forest
ATTN: FPR/Wilderness
1206 S. Challis Street
Salmon, ID 83467

Dear Forest Service,

Idaho does not need anymore wilderness!

I am the 4th generation on the ranch. I help my grandparents with the cattle operation on the ranch as well as on Forest and BLM land. We range our cattle in unit 29 according to the Fish and Game map.

There is an abundance of feed remaining on the range when we bring the cattle home for the winter. What will the grass be like if no cattle graze on the Withington Creek allotment? When we bring the livestock home in September the grass is like straw - a lightning strike, broken glass, or any other flammable object could ignite this entire area. As a child, I remember the sky resembled pictures of an atom bomb explosion when the forest burned in 2003. We don't want that ever, again!

My grandparents had many cows and calves who perished in that fire. Several cows and horses died later of burned feet, udders, burned areas on their backs, injuries to their lungs, etc. It easily could have been members of our family with the flames leaping behind them as they shoved the cattle to safety, away from the fire.

The range is critical to our livelihood. We have 3 families working on the ranch, now. Bills must be paid. The few cattle we have at home will not accomplish this. We need all the fields available as a hay crop to feed the cattle throughout the winter.

The forest needs us to manage and to continue to improve the land and water availability for the wildlife, as well as man. The erosion after a fire is astronomical. That is an enormous reason I am helping my dad and grandparents. I am constantly cleaning away downed trees from trails, working on fences and water systems throughout the summer. Someday I hope my children will add a 5th generation to continue the ranching operation that we have now.

Sincerely,



Daniel French, a grandson