



**AMERICAN
WHITewater**

www.americanwhitewater.org

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Rick Brazell
Forest Supervisor
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests
Kamiah Office
903 3rd Street
Kamiah, ID 83536

Re: Use of the Lochsa WSR Corridor by Mega-Loads

Dear Rick,

The Wild and Scenic Lochsa River's crystal clear waters, huge rapids, and great scenery draw kayakers, rafters, and canoeists from across the country and the globe. While a lifetime goal for many paddlers, the Lochsa is also the treasured back-yard run for paddlers living in Montana and Idaho. Those that visit are often left with a deep sense of stewardship for the river, and rely upon the US Forest Service to protect the river's many special characteristics.

American Whitewater has been representing the conservation interests of the paddling community since 1954, and we have heard about the importance of the Lochsa River from many of our members. Most recently, our members have voiced concerns about proposals to ship massive industrial equipment through the river corridor. The presence and transportation of this equipment is experienced as an industrialization of the Wild and Scenic corridor.

On behalf of our many members that paddle the Lochsa or aspire to, I would like to thank you for your recent unwavering position opposing the shipment of mega-loads through the corridor based on the well-reasoned interim criteria that your forest has developed. We feel strongly that this policy is the best thing for the river and its outstanding and remarkable recreational values.

In appreciation,

Kevin Colburn
National Stewardship Director
American Whitewater
Missoula, MT