

November 15th, 2021

RE: EAST FORK, SOUTH FORK RESTORATION & ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN# 60889

We are multiple use lands and shutting access down gains value for minimal few or none. I am opposed to all segments of limiting access to our forests.

Hi, I am Doug Bunch, and although I never worked for the USFS, my heritage runs deep within. I have a grand appreciation of the outdoors and its grand values. I am 71 years old now and still love the smell of a pine tree.

I grew up in McCall after my father finished some college and transferred there in 1962. He became the Administrative Officer and bonded paymaster for the USFS. His father, my grandfather, was District Ranger, then Assistant Supervisor of the Payette Forest District, Assistant Supervisor of the Boise Forest district, and finally Forest Supervisor of the Challis National Forest. He retired from the Challis Forest District and then moved back to Boise.

Both men served in the military. My grandfather on a navy battleship, WWI. My father was in Japan and China at 16 years old in WWII. Both men loved and respected the outdoors.

My father did forest service trail and forest inspections on a horse, riding a mule, or a Honda 90. He bought "riding mules" from back east to distribute to different districts to use for trail and forest management. Some of the mules you couldn't ride in a good rodeo.

My grandfather took government horses, mules and supplies out of Landmark Ranger Station, over the top of Pistol Creek and down to the Middle Fork Guard Station on a yearly inspection and hunting party. His trips consisted of District Managers, director of the Department of Highways, director of the Fish and Game, Federal Wildlife Biologists, President of the Idaho Wildlife Federation, Governor Little's grandfather, the Governor of Idaho, Governor Clark, bankers, engineers, and lawyers. Oh, and yes, my father at a young age on out-of-school leave. WWII shut these trips down.

"Caring for the land a serving People". Well, I think the BLM and USFS have gravitated away from their origins and guidelines. With population growth and the Covid there are a lot more people in the outdoors, and with that, comes problems. I can't even remember when the last time a campground was built or one enlarged, yet I have seen where a place used for camping for 50 years now has a raft of huge boulders cutting off any access. Although maybe too late, the forests bug kill should have been logged. The extreme silt run-off from the Middle Fork of the Salmon and its "let it burn policy" is saddening. You are worried about the run-off from the edge of a road or an ATV trail when, with the heavy rains this summer, I saw millions of tons of silt and sediment turn the Salmon around Riggins to a light chocolate milkshake for at least a week. A boat guide there told me it came from the Middle Fork of the Salmon. No trees, no protection, less snow pack, less annual water, leads to less regeneration of new trees, brush and grass. This leads to less chance for the fish and wildlife to gain ground. Beaver dams in Landmark, mark the end of the return of the salmon run that once spawned there.

Mining—My great grandfather, Lee Bunch, supported his family in Garden Valley with his mining endeavors. He, with his help, dug the 20-foot Oxbow Mine below Lowman through solid granite and diverted the whole Payette River through it, so then he could mine the hard bedrock cracks below.

Midas---- Preservation? Conservation? Or a reality of trying to keep everyone away while tracking the ultimate dollar like the land-grabbing Texas brothers. Only time will tell.

Do you suppose the animals sit on top of the ridge over the Middle Fork and talk about the circus bumper to bumper cavalcade of purple, orange, blue and red rafts carving their way down the River of No Return? Maybe there is some great revenue return back to the USFS from those extremely expensive guided raft trips to help the forests. I'm sure it to be so!

My oldest daughter, her husband, my grandkids and now great grandkids, all use the outdoors to camp, fish, hunt and enjoy.

My youngest daughter and husband do so as well. She now has a Master's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries.

My father passed away last year after 38 years of a great retirement. Both he and my grandfather gave thought every day to their forest and great outdoors! I know that for a fact from contact with them and their notes, ledgers and Forest Service Journals they kept.

My thoughts---Push your paper work aside, put your coat on, clear your head and go outdoors and take a real look at what you are doing or proposing to do! Don't look for that pat on your back, but without pressure.

Do the right thing!

If you have already made up your mind about what you are going to do, and this is just a legal formality, I am sorry to have bothered you with this letter.

We as a family don't camp in campgrounds. We hike, bike, ATV, fish, hunt and care for our outdoor gift!

"We are all a product of our environment"

Thank you,

Doug Bunch