

From: [Bayard Fox](#)
To: [Robertson, Robert N -FS](#)
Subject: FW: Maintainng Forest Integrity
Date: Saturday, October 31, 2015 4:25:30 PM

From: Bayard Fox [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2015 4:06 PM
To: 'jgalexander@fs.fed.us'
Cc: 'rmetzger@fs.fed.us'; 'robertson@fs.fed.us'
Subject: Maintainng Forest Integrity

Dear Mr. Alexander,

Last summer was my 45th season as owner and operator of the Bitterroot Ranch on the East Fork of the Wind River bordering the Shoshone National Forest. During that time we have averaged about 400 guests a year coming for week-long vacations. Certainly the quality of the accommodations, food and horses are factors, but the most important attraction we have had to offer is the unspoiled countryside and its quiet tranquility. Over the last half century I have sadly observed the gradual disintegration of an ethic where people walked or rode to travel and spurned the ease of motor vehicles which, by their very nature, destroy the value of what they have come to see. The gradual deterioration of values which should be sacrosanct has been heartrending for me to observe. We are fast squandering our most valuable asset. By gaining facile access to wild areas we destroy the very values we seek.

Without a doubt the main cause for our success here over the last half century and the reason why guests return here year after year is its untainted, peaceful beauty. The frenetic roar of an ATV as we are enjoying a quiet picnic in a secluded part of the forest shatters the magic of our scene. It is just what our guests have come to avoid and this noise pollution is one of the worst aspects of motorized activity. It can sometimes be heard for miles. We hope it will not be permitted to defile even wider areas.

In order to protect our greatest asset we would certainly like to see machine use in the forest remain as restricted as possible so that our most priceless asset is not further undermined. The serene grandeur of this area gives us a huge advantage; it is becoming more and more unique in the world as wild places are eroded. Please do not allow our tremendous good fortune to be any more defiled.

Thank you for the chance to comment.

Sincerely yours,
Bayard Fox

Bayard Fox
[REDACTED]

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness." (Mark Twain)

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