

From: [Salzmann, Kristie L -FS](#)
To: [Stresser, Susan R -FS](#); [Troxel, Olga -FS](#)
Subject: FW: Travel Plan NZ-05, Roads 165&178-1B partial closures
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 8:32:44 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Forwarding on more TM comments.



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Caring for the land and serving people

From: william courtis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 4:57 PM
To: Salzmann, Kristie L -FS
Subject: Travel Plan NZ-05, Roads 165&178-1B partial closures

Dear Ms Salzmann,

I request that my comments regarding the proposed closure of portions of Forest Service roads 165 and 178-1B, where they invade the corridor established for the Wild and Scenic Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River be considered during the decision making process and also become part of the final record.

First, I support the comments made by David Courtis.

Secondly, I am 78 years of age. I have been fortunate to have had the privilege to visit, hike, and backpack into the Shoshone and other National Forests, as well as Yellowstone National Park, beginning in 1942. I have walked the Clarks Fork from its origin in the Beartooths Northeast of Cooke City to the canyon mouth, mostly at river level with portions viewed only from the canyon rim. Nowhere along that length of river, excluding official Forest Service campgrounds, has the human impact been as great as that at the end of Forest Service 165 as described by David Courtis. I started to go see for myself, but when I saw the bare dirt beaten to powder road, I could not bear to go any further. I prefer to remember the beauty of the River as I remember it, and as I recorded it on video tape years ago.

It would seem that there are two perspectives-one which believes that wild and scenic places are becoming too scarce and need to be protected, take nothing but memories and photographs/video, leave nothing but footprints. The other seems to be that all places need to be accessed by motorized conveyances of any kind, and need to be modified to make each

area accessed 'civilized' and 'improved'.

So, for almost three quarters of a century, I have, off and on, roamed this area and at this point must carry supplemental oxygen in order to cover any distance at all, especially uphill. How many years I have left to me is anyone's guess, but I will treasure every unspoiled place that I am still able to get to on foot. That would have included the Forest Service road 165 access had the Forest Service protected the Wild and Scenic Corridor as soon as that designation was made in 1990. I can still reach the Clarks Fork from 176-B, even with the requested portion of it closed. At river level the River is not nearly as impacted as at 165 since it takes effort to make it down to river level and back up over terrain not yet navigated by motorized vehicles.

I would note that I have four grandchildren, each of whom was initially carried in a backpack but as they got older they walked more and more and fully by, as I recall, three years of age. They all soon developed into excellent hikers including from the gate at Chief Joseph (165) or the Transfer station (178-B) to the Clarks Fork and back out. It did not take long before they started to leave their grandfather in the "dust" when climbing out of the canyon. I have always maintained that as time passes and I am no longer able to reach the more remote areas, I am pleased to have left it to those who have the physical capability and desire to be able to see those places in close to the same condition as when I saw them for the first time.

These are but a few of the reasons and the philosophy that form the basis for my request that the Forest Service Close Roads 165 and 178-1B where those roads cross into the Clarks Fork Wild and Scenic River Corridor as well as any unauthorized deviations/extensions of the official Forest Service Roads. ALL of the Clarks Fork is a treasure to be preserved, but especially so for that portion designated wild and scenic. It is an awesome experience to stand down in the depths of the Canyon and know that it must have looked as it does now before the first white man ever "discovered" it.

Respectfully Submitted, 23 November, 2015

William S. Courtis

