

Valley County Board of Commissioners

P.O. Box 1350 • 219 N. Main Street
Cascade, Idaho 83611-1350



Phone (208) 382-7100
Fax (208) 382-7107

ELTING G. HASBROUCK

Chairman of the Board
ehasbrouck@co.valley.id.us

SHERRY MAUPIN

Commissioner
smaupin@co.valley.id.us

NEAL THOMPSON

Commissioner
nthompson@co.valley.id.us

DOUGLAS A. MILLER

Clerk
dmiller@co.valley.id.us

EAST FORK SOUTH FORK RESTORATION AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

[Payette National Forest - Home \(usda.gov\)](http://usda.gov)

Attn; East Fork South Fork Restoration and access Management Plan

Payette National Forest Supervisor's Office

500N Mission Street

McCall , Idaho 83638

Recreation is a critical part of the Valley County economy. None of the alternatives presented in the plan fix the recreation infrastructure that has been ignored for over 30 years. The lack of facilities and trail opportunities has not kept up with the growing population and the needs of the public.

A mixture of alternative C and D comes the closest to meeting the needs of the public. Alternative C meets with most of the BCYP Collaborative's consensus recommendation to the Forest Service, with the exception for areas without a specific agreement.

Sugar Creek road should be opened instead as a Trail to vehicles 70" and under. Similarly, but not addressed in the DEIS, Road 503408900, aka the Red Metals Mine Road should be open as a trail to vehicles 70" and under to the viewing area. The Red Metals Mine Road would allow access for the public to view and enjoy the forest. The road prism could be left closed beyond the viewing area, with access to hiking trails. The owner of the Red Metals Mine issued a letter to the Forest Service during a previous NEPA process regarding

the road, welcoming public access stating “Ivy Minerals has no issue with the public crossing their patented mine Claim on the existing roadway.”

The report speaks only in generalities and does not indicate that a proper site or community-based investigation of economic conditions was accomplished. Specifically, Valley County would recommend an attempt to learn the economic impact of before and after closure of significant recreational access routes in recent years. Yellow Pine area residents have expressed concern that their town will perish economically and no longer be able to support residents with services without an increase in OHV access to key destinations. These places are of interest specifically to traveling recreationists who create economic input for the town which residents cannot create internally. Notably, destinations cited were Cinnabar Mine and Crater Lake, previously the top two OHV destinations and drivers of recreational economic activity in Yellow Pine. These sites are now off-limits to OHV recreationists since physical road closures were placed a few years ago.

“Increases in motorized access are not expected to measurably change visitation to Yellow Pine. It is not anticipated that total expenditures in Yellow Pine by Forest visitors would be measurably different regardless of alternative selected or the time scale considered.”

“Available data indicates that non-winter, motorized uses are not the primary driver of recreation and tourism in Valley County or the PNF. Non-motorized uses drive more summer forest visitation than motorized uses.”

“Conclusion [:] In summary, the proposed changes to motorized access could produce minor beneficial and/or adverse effects but are not expected to measurably change socioeconomic conditions at the local, county, state, or regional scale. The action alternatives would result in slight increases in motorized access and could have beneficial or adverse impacts to Forest visitor experiences...”

These statements are entirely arbitrary and capricious and are not supported by objective facts within the report. Such statements should either be supported by actual data or stricken from the report. The opposite conclusion can just as easily be said to be true. Positive economic contribution of OHV

of lodgers who have shared anecdotes such as frequently hosting motorized recreation users including Backcountry Discovery Route users (long-distance “ADV” motorcyclists) who typically lodge and dine in groups.

Furthermore, there is no consideration for the possibility that designation of additional routes which were overlooked in the DEIS and will be suggested elsewhere in these comments, if opened to the public could measurably increase tourist visitation and therefore economic input to the community.

Finally, opening trails to motorized uses should not be delayed by any decommissioning schedule as is the continuing delay with the South Fork RAMP in the public gaining access to promised trails.

Thank you

Valley County Board of Commissioners

Elting G. Hasbrouck
Sherry Manser
Ned Thompson