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First name: Stan

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: , I attended one of the recent Midas Gold project public meetings near the airport.

My paramount concern is the proposed changes and use of FSR 447. I am an Idaho native born and raised here and in my sixties. I am very familiar with FSR 447, where it is and where it goes. I have frequented the area since I was in my teens for a number of recreational purposes. Currently my wife and I are Trail Volunteers working during the summer months in the Cascade Ranger District under John Hidy out of the Lowman District Office. The area in question is a wildlife sanctuary. Home not only to birds, calving elk and deer in June, but wolf packs with pups born in April and taken to a variety of rendezvous sites in the area during the summer. The wolves are present in the area and I have personal current video documentation to prove it along with still photos. To me using the road for commercial vehicle traffic is just unheard of. The negatives are many but some include tanker trucks on the road along with the use of air brakes. Spill hazards from the aforementioned. Any number of transport vehicles/work vehicles whether it be for employee transportation, supplies or otherwise. The noise and pollution from these vehicles. Additionally all of the road maintenance equipment needed to keep the road maintained. Since before 2012 to present, many of the roads in the Cascade Ranger district were decommissioned because of the worry of sediment finding its way into the Salmon river?? Now there is a proposal to enhance, lengthen and maintain a road that was never intended for the use proposed. An example of a decommissioned road is FSR 447H on Burntlog creek which junctured with FSR 447. I was on the road the day before it was decommissioned in the fall of 2012 and the road was in excellent condition including the road drainages. Still the road was decommissioned.

I realize your responsibilities are many but implore you to give my feelings some heartfelt thought. The negative actions taken today will have a lingering affect for years to come. A good example is a book written by Bud Moore titled, "The Lochsa Story". I did a lot of volunteer work on the LoLo Motorway (FSR 500) with the US Forest Service called "Take Pride in America" some years ago now. I worked out of the Powell Ranger Station. This book is a non-fiction book about this area and of the many failures that happened.

It's about the Bitterroot Mountains, Clearwater National Forest, and LoLo National Forest. I encourage you to read this book as a professional forester.

Please feel free to call me at XXX-XXX-XXXX to discuss this more.