

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/6/2024 8:00:00 AM

First name: David

Last name: Pitts

Organization:

Title: Forest Advocate

Comments: 10-19-24 Forest plan comments; 1. Promote salvage logging. 2. Keep all roads open for public access. The 90's decade saw a crusade of road closures and obliterations. The trend continues to this day. As it is, roads are naturally closing due to overgrowth. Even our main spec roads are degrading due to the USFS failure to maintain them. We the public are steadily losing our freedoms for access to our public lands by your assault on access restrictions. Even your own printed brochures state the following; "The forest service needs roads for active forest management, wildfire suppression strategies, providing the public with multiple use opportunities of access, fuel breaks during wildfires, thinning trees in overstocked stands, timber harvest, prescribed fire, fuel reduction, and other restoration activities. Forest visitors use roads to access camping sites, fishing and hunting destinations, gathering huckleberries, mushrooms and other recreational activities." The USFS brochure also states; "Public input is considered when deciding whether to close a road or keep it open." This is obviously untrue. We the people have very little input in deciding the roads and/or what vehicles can be used. Why close them in the first place? Why keep restricting people to smaller and smaller areas of use which intensifies the impact? Why can a handful of USFS people take the people's freedoms of access away from us? I still manage private timberlands in NE Oregon. I use my street legal side-by-side for access and transportation throughout the forest stands private and public. Business and Pleasure. It is an extremely important means of transportation for me and it is safer, easier, more maneuverable and less impact on the roads and ground due to a smaller and lighter weight. Remember that we are an aging society so our means of mobility diminish each year. That is why side-by-side vehicles have become so prevalent and popular so that we may enjoy our public lands. Please consider these comments when imposing new regulations which impede upon our freedoms. David Pitts Forest advocate