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First name: Tina

Last name: DeWeese

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Curious, because the traffic has been so heavy today and we're choking on dust, I had to take a minute to drive to the trailhead...and this is what I found. There were 39 vehicles when i got there, and 4 more showed up while I was taking pictures...and speaking to a few hikers, curious again, if they had any idea about the planned logging project up this canyon. None of 4 hikers had a clue...(one w/ a beautiful baby in a pack...), so I laid out the basics, asked them, if they're interested to look up the Hyalite/Cottonwood Fuel Reduction Project, all of them said they would like to know more.

THIS is not my favorite kind of day here in my home ground...I'd had my horses out to graze on the county grass, and brought them in early as the dust from each passing vehicle was overwhelming...

But back to the trailhead and the now 42 cars parked in a double row at the parking lot...and a string of 26 cars when I counted, parked along the road. Today is Memorial Day, May 26. As much as I really don't like to see all this traffic on this road...I understand that THIS is what people crave in their lives. A day off from work, they're not swarming to the mall. I remember a visit to my sister living in Mexico. They treated me to "the tour" and we got into the market, a massive sprawling complex of wonderful foods and arts, a thrill for me to see this cultural vibrancy...but to my surprise, there were SO few people, i felt like we were the only tourists there! When we left there, we went to the beach down the hill from my sister's house. EVERYONE was there! Thousands of people, soaking the sun, playing in waves, families and dogs and vendors...THIS was what people craved...to be in the heart of nature...not, at least on THAT day, in the marketplace!!

Cottonwood Canyon Trail is like the beach for Bozeman. People CRAVE the solace of the woods...even with everyone else there, it's a step away from the metropolis of town, away from the grid of commerce and traffic (even if it's just the drive to get there...). I've counted my blessings that I don't have to drive to get here, I've had the privilege to have lived in my family home since I returned to Montana in 1989. My folks moved our family of 5 kids here in 1965, a couple of decades before the public had the privilege to hike here after the Concerned Citizens of Cottonwood intervened a major logging project, and negotiated a public trail to celebrate victory to preserve this pristine "Vest Pocket Wilderness" over another logging coup for the mills! This history is told in some depth in several other "comments" to this currently proposed logging project. (Please see comments from Doug Rand, Clint Nagel, and myself, Tina DeWeese in the FS Reading Room for this project.)

US Forest Service NEPA Project Public Reading Room

<https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/ReadingRoom?Project=67535>

Pictures are worth a thousand words. People LOVE to come to Cottonwood..

Please submit these comments in the FS comment page for the Hyalite/Cottonwood Fuel Reduction Project.

Thanks so much!

Tina DeWeese

Concerned Citizen for Cottonwood, Resurgence!!