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Comments: NOTE: An electronic version of the commenter's original letter, received via email, is attached.

Please find attached our public comment for the Four Forest Restoration Initiative.

Ben Burr

Policy Director

BlueRibbon Coalition/ShareTrails

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Ben Burr, Policy Director January 16, 2020

BlueRibbon Coalition

P.O. Box 5449 Pocatello, ID 83202 208-237-1008

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Supervisor Stephen Best

Coconino National Forests Supervisor Laura Jo West

Tonto National Forest Supervisor Neil Bosworth

USDA Forest Service 1824 S Thompson Street Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Submitted via email to: 4fri_comments@fs.fed.us Dear Ms. West, Mr. Best, and Mr. Bosworth:

This letter is submitted on behalf of BlueRibbon Coalition/Sharetrails (BRC) regarding the Four Forests Restoration Initiative. BRC is a national non-profit organization that champions responsible recreation and encourages a strong conservation ethic and individual stewardship. We champion responsible use of public lands and waters for the benefit of all recreationists by educating and empowering our members to secure, protect, and expand shared outdoor recreation access and use by working collaboratively with natural resource managers and other recreationists.

Alternatives 2 and 3 propose to decommission 200 miles of existing system and unauthorized roads on the Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests and 290 miles on the Tonto National Forest. In addition, up to 800 miles of unauthorized roads on all three forests could be decommissioned under these alternatives. Design

features would address any issues related to the construction of temporary roads for haul access, insuring decommissioning of all temporary roads after treatments are completed. Hence, both alternatives would reduce access or ease of access to recreate in certain areas in the forests.

Rather than finding ways to decommission more roads and close off access, we believe USFS should modify the existing draft environmental analysis to identify ways to increase access and develop new routes. We look forward to helping you accomplish this along with our partners for protecting access in Arizona.

Sincerely,

Ben Burr Policy Director

BlueRibbon Coalition