

December 5, 2016

Kelly Lawrence, Naches District Ranger
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
10237 U.S. Highway 12
Naches, WA 98937

RE: Little Crow Restoration Project Assessment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. After spending time going through the overly lengthy document on this project, I support the Plan 2 Modified Action, yet ONLY with the following changes:

1. The 1921 road seasonal closure dates need to be changed to match the rest of the opening dates in the trail system (April 1st – Jun 15th.) By allowing this road to stay closed until June 30th you will be creating too much confusion with the general public as to when and what is open in the spring. I will also like to note that “mudding” isn't occurring in that area as the document states. Granted, there are some ruts where the openings in the tree canopies have let in quite a bit of moisture, making the ground softer for vehicle travel from dispersed camping. This is something that is easily repairable and doesn't warrant you eluding to “mudding” of the entire area.
2. The Naches Wagon/Immigrant Trail is an important part of history for not only the Yakima Valley, but for the entire state of Washington. It is important that the lower levels of this route remain intact and preserved as they are today.
3. The document (Chapter 3) explains that 14 camp sites, both dispersed and developed may be closed. I ask, where do you plan for the users to go after these campgrounds are closed? Blindly closing camping areas is not a good idea, as you are just pushing all of these users into a smaller area, or worse, forcing them to find new areas, resulting in a much more resource damage than you have currently.

Thank you for your time regarding this matter.

-Shane Fuller
Yakima, WA

Member – Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance
Gleed Boyz Offroad
Pacific Northwest 4 Wheel Drive Association