

November 12th, 2020

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Dear Ms. Blake and Ms. Jackson:

The Big Creek/Yellow Pine/South Fork Salmon River Collaborative (“Collaborative”) is comprised of Tribal staff, Valley County, Yellow Pine and Big Creek residents, local businesses, recreationists and conservationists working together, in cooperation with the Forest and other federal and state agencies, to provide consensus-based recommendations on the South Fork Restoration and Access Management Plan (SFSR-RAMP) project. The natural resources and recreational opportunities found within the Krassel/McCall Ranger Districts are important to all our perspectives. We spent years participating in the Collaborative process learning from each other and striking a balance on recreation and resource protection. It has not always been easy but, in the end, we reached consensus on several key issues. The Collaborative supports without reservation, the ATV trail construction and the decommissioning work outlined in Alternative D of the SFSR-RAMP. We ask the Forest Service to expedite this decision so on the ground work could take place in 2021.

It is not surprising, considering the passion so many have for this area that not everyone supports every component of this project being implemented. But considering the passion of so many, it is truly remarkable that those who originally challenged the 2008 Record of Decision for the Travel Management Plan: Valley County, Yellow Pine Residents, Mining Companies and Recreationists, have come to an agreement with conservationists and the Nez Perce Tribe on a Collaborative consensus. It has been our experience that rarely happens. There will always be those, for whatever reason, who cannot or will not agree, but that should not prevent the Forest from moving forward with a project that not only meets the direction of the Forest Plan but also benefits, the land, the resources and the people who live, work, and recreate in the area.

On behalf of the Collaborative, we support the Forest Service decision of Alternative D for the SFSR-RAMP, this decision is the closest to the Collaborative recommendations so that resource protection and recreational benefits can be recognized on the landscape in 2021.

Sincerely,

Kyle Fend, Rounded

Wes Keller, Resource

Sandra Mitchell, Recreation