

## Additional comments on roads in Bitterroot Front project

On the Westside project, undetermined roads that were naturally fully revegetated, invisible, impassible, and completely reclaimed were re-opened as temporary roads and not even counted as new temporary roads in the Westside EA. After project completion, these roads were only “closed” and not obliterated and recontoured just as proposed for temporary roads in the Bitterroot Front project. These roads remain on the landscape today, where they scar the mountainside and enable illegal motorized use. I do not want to see this on the Bitterroot Front project.



Above photo shows an undetermined partially reopened temporary road on the BNF Westside project. The far end is what the road looked like at the start of the project. It was invisible and impassible, yet it was considered a road that did not count as new road building. After reopening and project completion, the foreground is how it ended up. It was only “closed” with an ineffective barrier, and is now not a road. So before the project, impassible and invisible roads were roads, but afterwards, when they really are roads, they are not roads. This temporary road has been illegally used repeatedly by monster trucks that then go cross-country through the open logged-out surroundings.



Above is a view of the Westside project roads from Lost Horse Road. The uppermost road is FR 496. The next road down is the “temporary” road discussed above. The other two lower roads are FR 5620. None of these roads were visible before the Westside project and they were supposed to be hidden from view by the design feature that required leaving trees below those roads. Obviously that design feature was not followed. The BNF 2022 Biennial Monitoring Report said that scenery had not been monitored due to the lack of a staff landscape architect, but obviously anyone can monitor scenery. Personally, I prefer the 2016 fire scar on Ward Mountain to this, and the wildlife does too.





The above photo shows the view of FR 496 from the Lost Horse Road. This road was not visible before the project, and design features that were not followed were supposed to screen the road from view.

All new roads, whether temporary or permanent, have a detrimental effect on the forest. The Bitterroot Front project should not build a single foot of new road because you cannot even hide them from our residents, let alone our wildlife.