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Comments: First I wish to thank the agency for presenting the plan revision in public forums. Many misconceptions are thus more easily dispelled or concerns confirmed. I do however think one important aspect is being missed in these forums: The comments made by audience members during the presentations, are to my understanding, not recorded nor included in the public comment review process. This is a disservice to participants who have by their presence shown their enthusiasm for the future of the Forest.

The current preferred option includes the expansion of wilderness. I oppose that expansion, not in wishing more harvesting or incursion by roads/motorized travel, rather in a desire to keep operational decisions on a local agency level. Congressional wilderness designation is too restrictive and essentially permanent. It severely inhibits local Rangers from making decisions concerning the health and well-being of the forest.

I do concur with the proposed option in its expansion of active fuels management and protection of riparian ecosystems while removing the maximum timber circumference harvest restriction. Forest health is served best by the decisions made by Foresters in the field rather than those directed by regulation and bureaucratic restriction.

I also applaud designation of motorized recreational areas within the forest though I desire more opportunities in this area. To my understanding the current proposal does not restrict future expansion of motorized recreation in much of the forest.

Lastly, one major exclusion in the plan is a commitment to economic development. Certainly increased fuels management and more active harvesting does increase monies from resource extraction, but there is no active participation by the Agency in any other area. Efforts to promote visitation and usage of our lands can have great impact in increasing the value of the forest both locally and nationally. Financially benefiting from a healthy forest can inspire citizens and agency personnel to work harder to protect and preserve our national lands. An effort to include initiatives for economic development within and adjacent to the forest would be a positive addition to the plan.