

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/24/2017 6:57:47 PM

First name: Scott

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Scott Keithley and I want to comment on the South Fork of the Salmon River Restoration and Access Management Plan. I live in Lake Fork, ID and recreate in the McCall, Krassel, and Boise National Forests. I use mountain bike, trail bike, in addition to backpacking in these areas I'm commenting on.

I disagree with reworking the old logging roads with heavy equipment as that causes more soil disturbance than just letting the roads grow back naturally as they have over time. I disagree with decommissioning the 3 miles of the Hamilton Bar Road, as it is currently closed to motorized use other than two wheel motorcycle and its current state is growing back trees and vegetation so that over time it will become a two wheel motorized trail anyhow. I agree with developing camping and parking areas at the confluence of the Secesh River, the South Fork, and Hamilton Bar. I agree with reducing the impacts at the dispersed campsites along the lower Secesh River, and South Fork of the Salmon River Road, but don't agree with closing any sites as there is a very limited amount of them currently. I agree with stabilizing the South Fork of the Salmon River bank upstream of the Jakie Creek Bridge. I agree that we need to reroute two sections of the two wheel motorized trail #291 through Phoebe Meadows to avoid the meadow crossings, it may also be necessary to put one bridge over the creek at the first meadow. I agree with designating up to 11 miles of new ATV trail in Little Buckhorn Drainage. I agree with developing a plan to repair the damage of the trail #096 on Lower Buckhorn Creek. I agree with repairing the Krassel Knob Trail #089 to improve the drive-ability of switchbacks for motorcycles, in addition, the Indian ridge trail could use some of the same improvements on the switchbacks to make it more drive-able for motorcycles. I agree with reestablishing the Martin Ridge Trail for two wheel motorized use, in addition, I would like to see the Cougar Creek and 6 Mile Ridge trails reopened for two wheel motorized use. None of these trails have any sensitive wildlife or stream crossing issues and used to be open to motorized use. The amount of work to open these back up to motorized use is very minimal. The local motorized club is willing to donate time and resources for reopening these trails. I would like to see trail #076 from Elk Creek to the Davis Ranch reconstructed and open for motorcycle and ATV use. There are three washouts on this trail that will require some reconstructions, and other than that, the rest of the trail is in good shape. I personally and other property owners at Trails End Subdivision at the South Fork of the Salmon River are willing to do all maintenance on that trail #076 once it is reconstructed. Improving the stream crossings on that trail are important to prevent further trail damage and erosion. I would also like to see a pack bridge put in somewhere between the Fritzer Cabin and the Davis Ranch so that bridge would connect trail #076 to trail #077. This would create loop opportunities for two wheel motorized, horseback, mountain bike and foot traffic from the Hamilton Bar trail head to Hettinger Ranch or Warren and also for foot traffic to access all the way to the mouth of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Since the trail #077 and #076 currently dead end almost across from each other, a pack bridge seems like the best alternative to create loop opportunities for many user groups. I agree with constructing a turnaround and parking area at the end of Zena Creek Road. I agree with your plan to reduce impacts around Loon Lake.

I believe that local motorcycle and bicycle clubs will more than happy to help out where possible on some of these projects to reduce costs to the Forest Service for implementing some of these ideas. I personally will do what I can to keep these trails open as I use them regularly.

Thank you,

Scott Keithley

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