Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/12/2016 3:27:29 AM
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Greenwater ATM

RE: Greenwater ATM comment period - electronic comment (5/11/16)

Hi! Thanks for holding a comment period for the Greenwater ATM planning. I'd like to express support for Alternative Three and add the following feedback:

* I'm a resident and regular foot-traffic and bike user of roads that are likely to be affected. At least in the public meeting I was at in Greenwater on the date above, unhappy motorized traffic users were VERY loud (and rude), and non-motorized use (including hiking, running, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing) didn't even come up. But I hope the decision-makers also consider the many non-motorized users, who are likely underrepresented because they don't belong to an ATV, snowmobiling, or 4-wheeling organization.
* Specifically, for people like me and my partner, ALL of the alternatives may even improve our user experience, since it would seem that foot traffic will still be able to pass on most "closed" or Category 2 roads, as we already do on roads that are clearly slipping, intentionally or not, from one maintenance category to a lower one, and growing over with saplings, for budget reasons. If those roads close or receive less maintenance, they will be more pleasant to walk these without the noise, littering, gunshots, and insufficiently dowsed campfires that seems to be associated with a minority of motorized access users.
* I understand the reasons for the necessary change, completely support the objectives of environmental and water quality protection and improved elk browsing areas. I empathize with the financial limitations and regret the uncalled-for hostility you seem to be facing from some user groups regarding the issue.
* It seems clear that this is simply one more example of federal (and more local) infrastructure degradation because of the current political climate, in which many voters treat taxes like they're Satanic but somehow still expect the same services they've always enjoyed. I do think you can and should more clearly spell out such realities in your public communication; I recognize you have a careful political line to walk, but at the meeting I attended, the same people griping loudly about what they perceived as a loss of privileges were also complaining about the taxes they pay now and "government" in general. They aren't connecting the dots that THEY/WE are the ones who are insufficiently funding maintenance.

Thanks for your inclusion of this feedback in the process, and I appreciate whatever efforts you can take to inform the public as the decision-making process proceeds.

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