Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/13/2016 2:10:23 PM
First name: Anon
Last name: todd1803@comcast.net
Organization:
Title:
Comments: "Greenwater ATM"

Ranger Schramm,
I'm writing today to voice my opinion in regards to the Greenwater ATM proposals.
I'm a lifelong user of the woods in the Greenwater area. As a small child in the 1970's and 80's, my parents took me camping and trail-bike riding in those woods nearly every weekend during the summer months. This has turned into a lifelong love of spending time in the outdoors with friends and family. I've watched with sadness over the years as more and move of the public land I love becomes blocked from public access by gates, boulders, ecology blocks, and bureaucracy.

This proposed action by the Forest Service will close 65% of the system roads. I find this unacceptable for many reasons. Dispersed recreation and camping are already hard to find on busy weekends. Removing system roads will pack more users into a smaller area, causing increased pressure and resource damage in these areas. This crowding also takes away the wilderness experience, and makes it more like a campground experience.

I understand that funding is extremely limited. As an alternative, I would suggest allowing some of the lesser used roads to naturally degrade, with little to no maintenance. Let them become 4WD-access only. User groups would be called upon for maintenance such as clearing downed trees. With funding being a huge issue here, I would also support implementation of requiring the purchase of a daily or NW Forest Pass for any access to the road system or use of the area. This would feed more money directly to the Forest Service to support maintenance and enforcement in the area.

If the three proposals provided are the only possible options, I'm a strong supporter of Alternative 1. As a second choice, Alternative 3 is slightly better than Alternative 2, which is completely unacceptable. Honestly, I wonder if closure of 165 miles of established roads would even be legal. Most of these roads are old enough that they may fall under R.S. 2477, which has been cited frequently in maintaining motorized backcountry access in the American Southwest. I must ask if this has been investigated fully?

Thank you for taking the time to review my feedback.

Respectfully,
Todd Dalseg
9506 202nd Ave East
Bonney Lake, WA 98391
(253)350-2463