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Title:

Comments: Ladies and gentlemen,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this plan. I am a resident of Idaho, and a pilot, and have often visited the Custer/Gallatin area. A treasure like the Frank Church indeed! As a pilot I ask you to consider aviation as part of your management plan. In the Frank Church over the years the back-country airports have served in many ways - access for many people/groups/visitors and especially safety points for hikers, campers and hunters. They also have served as measuring points for weather, use, wildlife and testing.

I know these will not and should not be major paved airports, but the access they provide here works very well for those that love it - yet keeps the wilderness as such.

As a member of the Recreational Aviation Foundation over the years, their/our cooperation with the Forest Service - and others (BLM, private owners) - has been extremely successful in maintaining a viable balance. We work - on the ground getting dirty - with these public and private entities to achieve common goals. As an example, look at WWW.Eye-N-Sky.com and click on Webcam Index. You will see webcams and weather stations that provide valuable safety resources to pilots, hikers, hunters, and on.

I ask you to include aviation assets and airports as a critical part of this plan. It has worked in the Frank Church, as well as many other places across Idaho. It can work in the Custer Gallatin as well.

Thank you,

Paul Collins MD