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First name: Greg

Last name: Herrick

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments for the DRAFT PLAN, CGNF

Dear UFSF Friends:

I am writing as a regular user of USFS airstrips flying out of Jackson, Wyoming and Driggs, Idaho. My use of USFS lands is primarily precipitated by access from the air. I would like to make certain that "airstrips" or "aircraft landing areas" or similar language is added wherever the words "trails and roads" is mentioned in the Proposed Action.

My "USFS experience," and that of many of my friends utilizing USFS lands, is dependent on access from the air. As a result it is imperative that the Proposed Action INCLUDE aircraft access and activities. Aircraft access and use is every bit as legitimate as any of the other vehicular forms of access and leaves a decidedly smaller footprint on National Forest lands.

Many of us donate our time to the maintenance of the airstrips located on USFS lands. We are very, very supportive of the USFS. I urge the USFS, in the Proposed Action, to acknowledge this positive support by aviation users and to include us in whatever guidance you provide to those who plan activities is support our mutual interest in maintaining USFS lands and facilities. Please don't forget aviation has a long history of access to and in support for Forest Service lands.

As well, in the Proposed Document I urge the USFS to increase the emphasis on airstrips and airstrip infrastructure for use when issuing guidance and direction to those involved in planning which may impact aviation access. Considerable national leadership support from numerous branches of government have acknowledged the importance of airstrips and aviation access to USFS lands as part of a balanced transportation plan for public lands.

As part of Proposed Action document, educating staff on the sources and use of information for airstrips on USFS lands must be incorporated along with similar data for other means of access. There are numerous non-profit groups which can lend assistance in identifying sources of information for vetting if you wish.

The ongoing importance of airstrip based access to USFS lands must be included in this Proposed Document and other administration and planning resources. Time and time again I have noticed aviation seems to go unnoticed. Personally I believe these are simply honest oversights as planners and others simply don't think about aircraft when they personally don't use them. It's easy for the average person to contemplate ground vehicles but not to relate as well to vehicles of the air. Ironically, aviation provides the greatest opportunities for access with an extremely low footprint. Please keep aviation access in mind, just as with other forms of USFS land access when drafting the Proposed Document.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg Herrick

P.O. Box 6291

Jackson, Wyoming 83002-6291

Phone: 307-739-9575

