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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am approaching this issue from 3 perspectives. As a retired firefighter the forests in and around Salmon are already a mess. I say this because there is so much windfall and dead and dying trees. If the Rabbit Foot Fire would have jumped Williams Lake the fire would have rapidly spread to the Jesse Creek Watershed we all rely on for our water sources. It could have also threatened the town like Paradise, CA. In a Wilderness Area no motorized vehicles are allowed. The proposed Wilderness Plan surrounds Salmon in many areas. This means no chain saws, no fire fighting equipment, no vehicles, etc. Our town could be put at great risk under these circumstances.

Secondly, we are a ranching community. If our ranchers loose their ability to graze their cattle on BLM or Forest Service land, they will loose the ability to grow their grass to make hay. The cost of raising cattle would become cost prohibitive. In this instance ranches barely making it would go broke. if this happens the town of Salmon would suffer through loss of revenue from these ranches. We do not need a large corporate ranch to come in and buy the land from our small ranchers. Big Corporate Ranches are not good for the ecology nor are CAFOs. We need our ranchers to stay in business. These are our citizens whose livelihood would be compromised if this Wilderness Plan is allowed to progress. The town would suffer as well.

As a hunter I rely on the ability to hunt and use a vehicle in areas where we can currently have motorized vehicles. Many of us would loose access to our hunting areas that we rely on to feed ourselves.

I understand the need to preserve our wilderness areas, however we can not do this at the expense of the City of Salmon, our ranchers, and hunters. So I am against this plan.