

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/25/2019 3:05:48 AM

First name: George

Last name: McQuiston

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wilderness is beautiful, we can all agree on that, but not being able to access that beauty is one of the problems with creating MORE wilderness. The current wilderness in Idaho is not being managed properly to allow access so how do you think it possible create more and keep up with its management?

As I listened to your presentation in person at the Challis Legion Hall back in December, I could not help but get a little agitated when you (the FS) quoted the wilderness act as land "untrammelled by man". Then you went on to explained that untrammelled is synonymous with "untouched" by man.

Nowhere in this proposed inventory is there land that does not show evidence of man having been there. In fact, evidence of man is replete upon this landscape that you are proposing. There is evidence of old road grades, motorized trails throughout, chainsaw cleared trails, previous logging operations, former mining operations, etc, etc.

One of the most frustrating and I must say offensive things about this man created wilderness ideal, is riding an old road grade in the wilderness or clearing that same old road grade with a crosscut saw because chainsaws are legal inside an existing wilderness, KNOWING that a bulldozer had been there before me. I would dare say that qualifies as "trammelled by man".

One of the greatest scams (in my opinion of course) being perpetrated on the American public is the fact that we spend hundreds of millions of dollars, if not billions of dollars, making "public" buildings ADA compatible. All in the name of access. During that same time, we are reducing the public's ability to access what I believe is America's crown jewel in the form of a public lands system.

We are having to sit back and watch as year after year trails, roads and campgrounds go unmaintained and access is lost because you (the FS) are "underfunded and understaffed" and cannot get to those maintenance problems. The wilderness areas are suffering the most for this and access is being stripped more and more every year.

Since you (the FS) cannot keep up with the back log of unmaintained trails within the current wilderness system, what makes you believe you can keep up with more? Creating more wilderness to lock people out of THEIR public lands seems to be the antitheses to what is being accomplished with the ADA process in public buildings and I would believe contrary to what framers of the wilderness act had intended.

When can this madness stop? Please let it stop here and now. NO MORE WILDERNESS!

As I heard someone say and I quote, "the land has been managed in such a way that it has the appearance of wilderness quality. We must be doing something right. Maybe wilderness is not the answer we need?"