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Comments: This letter is to provide comments on the EA for the SFRAMP project.

We did comment on the original Scoping proposal for this project and were pleased to see some of our comments were addressed in the EA. We do believe the EA overall does a good job of analysing the road access needs and restoration opportunities, but there are still 2 troublesome actions being proposed: namely the Davis Ranch Road, and the failure to complete an analysis/investigation of trail washout on the Lower Buckhorn ATV trail.

The comments On the Davis Ranch Road we provided on the scoping phase of this project still apply to the proposed actions. To avoid requiring you to look up those comments they are provided again as follows:

"We are very concerned with the proposal for the Davis Ranch Road. Basically the proposal is to decommission the road to a non motorized Pack & Saddle Trail constructed to a standard that would allow permitted ATV access to the private land at roads end. We do concur this proposal would have natural resource benefits, but the idea of denying the public the opportunity to use the proposed facility for a high valued motorized recreation activity is without merit. Especially in a management area where the Forest Plan Objective 1250 is to "provide designated routes for motorized (ATV and Motorcycle) use". The fact this area is in a recommended wilderness complicates the situation. First, it must be noted the roadbed is currently a designated motorized trail (#076) that has been closed by Special Order due to storm damage & safety concerns. Under Forest Plan management guideline WRGU05 "Mechanical transport in recommended wilderness areas where it currently exists may be allowed to continue unless: (a) It degrades wilderness values, (b) Resource damage occurs, or (c) User conflicts result." Thus, once the damage and safety issues are fixed it is clear allowing the public to regain their mechanical transport is an option. Looking at this from a different aspect, the current scoping proposal would involve building the trail to a standard greater than needed for a Wilderness Pack & Saddle trail to allow permitted access to private land via ATV: which may require a Forest Plan amendment. We believe the proposal should be changed to allow public motorized use of the trail with a modified Forest Plan amendment to cover this option. This should be a relatively straight forward analysis. The trail itself would not be any different than that proposed, funding for the project would be much easier, and Forest Plan Objective 1250 would be addressed. The result would create the only public ATV trail in the entire Elk Creek Drainage."

Regarding the Lower Buckhorn Trail washout We believe the actions proposed for ATV routes in this area should not be completed until the study referred to in the EA is completed. It is absolutely critical that a viable alternative through or around the washout is established prior to concluding the proper ATV routes are being proposed.

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