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Comments: I am an avid outdoor enthusiast that uses forest roads to recreate in a licensed and insured 4x4 vehicle. I have seen firsthand the damage that mostly users of SXS and ATV type vehicles do when they stray from trails, and I understand the USFS' priority in stemming this damage. Closing more numbered roads is NOT the answer here. That only serves to concentrate thousands of users of the land on fewer miles of roads, causing more congestion and more damage to areas that remain open. We've seen this replay over and over again on Tonto NF near Mesa, and I don't want to see it on other forests in AZ. There are fewer and fewer places remaining to recreate due to the closure policies of the USFS.

Instead, I propose much stiffer penalties for those caught off roading where they shouldn't be, and an enhanced enforcement when issues are reported. Both could serve as a deterrent to future damage. As is usually the case, it's always a small number of bad actors that ruin it for everyone else, and it's not fair to those who play by the rules. Closing existing roads I believe will have no effect to a net negative effect on environmental preservation. Greater concentration of users in smaller areas and on fewer miles of roads will actually encourage MORE illegal off roading by the bad actors.

Having worked for the USFS for several years in other states, and having volunteered to do trail repairs on the Tonto NF in more recent times gives me the insight on this. We get out. We see what's happening, and in the case of Tonto, there's no place left to go near Mesa, so we drive further to the forests up north - Apache Sitgreaves included. Please don't make something that's already a problem worse by closing off several hundred more miles of roads to the public. This is OUR land, and the national forests were always intended for multiple use. Go after the bad guys and not punish the good guys.

Thanks.