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First name: rick

Last name: hoffmann

Organization:

Title:

Comments: In 2007 or 2008 I attended a USFS workshop regarding road closures at the Mogollon High School Gym in Heber and also submitted written comments. My purpose then is the same as now: to stop all future road closures, unless there is a major safety issue or real environmental issue. My opinion and dedication to free access is based on decades of experience in the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest.

I tried to read all the "information" you provided and accessed the proposal maps where "specific geographical comments" were encouraged. I'm sure you spent a lot of time and taxpayer's dollars on the presentation, but only a bureaucratic mind can take that for any length of time. I've had enough experience with government entities, specifically the forest service, to know the bottom line is you MUST be in complete control and are determined to legislate us out of our woods. You just keep coming back.

I have lived on the same acreage near Pinedale for 37 years. I did not evacuate for the Cottonwood Fire (which my home survived) or the Rodeo Fire (which took everything I owned that didn't roll). I watched the Rodeo Fire crest Turkey Hill heading our direction, and witnessed simultaneously a long line of forest service vehicles deserting Pinedale and turning south on 260 in the direction of Cheney Ranch and Torreon, leaving us and Timberland Acres to our disastrous fate. That's another story. Point is, I live on the edge of forest service land, and it is my life.

I camp a lot, and now that I've retired I camp even more. When I was younger I used a tent, now at 72 I enjoy an 18-foot camp trailer. I dry camp as far away from people and civilization as I can get. Getting close to and living alone in relatively unmolested nature is essential to replenishing my soul. Solitude. Lately, when I camp "up top," I've discovered favorite spots on spur roads off of fs285. Two-track access, dead-ends, borderline four wheel drive. You would close these roads. You would prohibit individual campsites. Believe me, "forest service approved" campgrounds like on the East Fork of the Black River along fs276 ARE NOT camping. Congestion, noise, dust, smoke, nosey camp hosts in their little golf carts collecting money (for what?), and huge sign after huge sign with all-caps lettering, every sentence beginning with "NO!!" These are the places you've created and would continue to create in the future to contain "the masses." I'm dead-set against your plans.

I see an inevitable future with single paved access through large tracts of forest. Frequent signs along these roads would read, "Stay on main paved roads, do not stop, camp only in forest service approved campgrounds. Violators will be subject to \$600 fines and or imprisonment. Enjoy your beautiful USDA National Forest."

We the people own forest service land. Without the many American citizens like me who paid federal income tax for sixty years there would be no forest service land, and you would have no job. These are facts that public servants have totally forgotten. I've lived in the White Mountains long enough to know that most long-term residents are here to be close to forest service land and to the personal FREEDOM and solitude it provides. Yours is an unrelenting battle to curtail our freedom and regulate access. You have fostered a "them against us" attitude that will only escalate if you continue with your travel management plans. Yes, we have big problems out there, folks who are trashing and tearing it all up with horsepower and ignorance, totally disregarding nature. So maybe more time in the field and less time in the office composing environmental impact statements might be helpful?

This issue is simply just one more to be placed on a long list of proof that big government is incapable of solutions . . . only restrictions. 09/23/2019