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Comments: Due to the enormity of the Mud Creek Project, I will keep these comments general. Also, please see my earlier comments.

I think it is important to clarify the mindset going in. Recreational opportunities are of primary importance. This is the basis of our local economy and increasingly of our state economy. If one looks at the many layers and complexities of just the fishing experience, one can get a feel for the magnitude of the task, especially since fishing is just one of many competing interests.

In my opinion, logging is NOT a competing interest. Selective logging and thinning are a means to an end and must be treated as such. I addressed this issue in my comments on Piquett Crk. Please refer to those comments in general. In specific, a couple issues must be raised. 1.) invasive weeds. Is it possible to have a station to power wash the tires and undercarriages of the trucks before they go into the forest? 2.) the possibility of some sort of public/private log sawing operation. Not finished lumber by any means but a way of making round logs into square lumber for easier and more efficient transport.

Recreational groups comprise many of the commenters I would bet. Each wants everything for their group. Some simple truths need to be agreed to before any meaningful discussion can take place. Every group cannot use every trail or area. Motorized users must have their own areas. Motorized and mechanized are NOT compatible with feet and hooves. This has much less to do with wear and tear and more to do with safety for all.

Overarching all is the simple truth that once wilderness areas are compromised, they will never be wilderness again. You can't go back. Wilderness is our most precious resource.

Given the length of the scoping document, the brevity of these comments might seem ridiculous. Early in the process we were asked "What do you want this area to look like?" In general terms I have address that.

Sincerely,

Mark R Van Loon