

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2019 3:44:44 AM

First name: Teena

Last name: Parham

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing concerning the road closures and restrictions that are planning on being done. I have many worries. I know that historically these roads provide needed access to the forest in case of fire or any other kind of emergency. They also have the benefit in cases of fire to act as a fire line to stop or slow the progress of a fire. They can also be used for evacuation in certain circumstances that might present themselves.

My other concern is the slow and steady progress of denying access to our National Forest all over. It is usually painted with reasons that sound good on paper or to those making the policies but they are unfounded and deceitful. Even these latest closures were carried out in an under handed way by not properly notifying the citizens of your intentions and having notices up so we have the time we need to make comments and spread the word. When there is a temporary closure due to various reasons there are signs everywhere and radio ads etc... This issue seems like the Forest Service was trying to bypass informing the public. Pulling together a meeting at the Heber/Overgaard fire station quickly after they found out the public themselves were doing a meeting to try and inform the public was obviously an attempt to fix this error. I am requesting the comment time frame be extended to give us the time we, the people, need to have our rights of having some input. We need more time to get more people informed and give them a chance to know what roads you intend to close and the setbacks and other restrictions suggested on the roads that will be left.

Some have an agenda to just keep us out and others might be truly of the belief that people damage the forest by their activities. This is nonsense. You will always find those that do not obey the rules but for the most part the people who use and enjoy the forest love it and want it taken care of. If some soil gets ruffled up or churned up that can actually be a positive thing. I am always perplexed at the concern that people make about small disturbances of some soil as if the forest would be permanently damaged. The forest is resilient and has beneficial results from man's actions. Turning up the soil helps seeds get worked into the soil to begin the process of germination. It also helps contain over growth that would later be a fire hazard or an unhealthy forest that cannot sustain the number of trees that are out there. I happen to know that we are way over in numbers of trees that is considered healthy. The way things are now because of the lack of properly managing our forest through logging, thinning prescribed burning it will take decades to get our forest back to a healthy condition. We need to get back to logging and thinning and letting people have access for recreational use.

So now we have recreation that is being taken away. This was predicted in the 90's and strongly denied that it would ever happen. Many roads and areas have already been closed and now you want to do more. The roads that are proposed in the rule and in your own records this would also close many more because access to them would be gone. I also know that roads that are used now aren't even marked as such therefore you are able to avoid adding them to the miles you have listed.

My family has used to forest for many many years. Camping, hunting, scenic quad rides or just going out for a drive to take in the beauty of it. My boys would go camping with friends and enjoy safe and healthy activities. We have millions of acres of wilderness areas we don't need anymore. My community has already lived through the loss of making a living from logging along with thousands of others. Logging which also performed a valuable service of management and financial benefits that was brought into Arizona as revenue. This state used to be in the black because of forest industries.

Speaking of financial issues. We were once a thriving community mostly due to the logging industry. So now we become more of a service oriented community. And many of the businesses success depends on people coming here to enjoy the activities they have in the forest and the beauty and peace it brings to our area. We need to get back to logging which will never be the same but we also need to keep our forest open for the benefit

of all. The Forest Restoration Act that was signed by President Bush back in 2004 isn't even being considered in all of this. As we watch Californias forest go up in smoke We continue to make bad decisions that create situations for more catastrophic fires right here.

The people who have lived here love these lands and would do anything to protect them. There will always be some bad apples. We can't punish everyone for the few that either don't know any better or don't care. there are far more who care. And there is millions of acres. We do not need to shut down anymore roads.