Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/30/2019 1:06:19 AM
First name: Adrienne
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: There are many locals that have enjoyed the ASNF for many years. It seems to me that taking away our ability to travel these forest roads and to substantially cuts camping areas and the ability to retrieve our game is a punishment for a comparable few that disregard road closures. The current system works well aside from lack of enforcement. We close roads for extended periods of time so the forest gets a respite from human use and after a period of time those areas are reopened and another one closed down. In my years of being out in the forest I have noticed an increase in wildlife not a lack thereof. Other than the wildfires that have decimated so many acres, wildlife seems to be doing well. Those fires could have been prevented or at least minimized by clearing the forest by logging, grazing, and other means. It seems the prescribed burns have definitely helped cull the available fuel for a major wildfire.
My family and I also hunt regularly. Hunter's help fund conservation efforts. Removing our ability to get our game to our vehicle in a timely manner is a major concern. Also, I worry about those that are older or those that have disabilities. They should be able to enjoy hunting just as much as an able bodied person.
My next concern would be the camping situation. The removal of so many available areas to camp will cause congestion in the allowed camping areas. This could lead to confrontations over available areas. Once this begins to become a problem then we will be dealing with people not wanting to come up to camp at all which will in turn affect our tourism in the region. Our small towns rely heavily on tourism. Camping, hunting, and just generally getting out in the woods is a huge reason to come to the White Mountains and surrounding areas.
Please look into continuing to manage our forest as is and don't let outsiders influence your decisions on this project.
These forests are so dear to many of us who live here.