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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have a vacation home on Crooked River that I've owned since 1990. I spend all summer there, usually from May thru October. I have been recreating on Crooked River since 1967. My two Sons, their wives, my 6 grandkids, aunts, uncles, and cousins also visit my Cabin property frequently.

We are active outdoors; we fish, hike, ride ATV's and snowmobiles, photograph the scenery & the animals, enjoy family time around the campfire, and enjoy hosting friends. I especially enjoy the history of the area, and very much enjoy visiting the many historic landmarks of the area.

It is imperative that we, and the many others like us with similar interests, be able to continue to enjoy the National Forests.

The only way we can continue to have that peaceful enjoyment is that Alternative X as described in the Draft EIS is chosen as the path forward.

The local residents and frequent users of the Forest are the ones with the most history, knowledge, and most at stake in the future of the Forest. Therefore, the residents and frequent users should have the most say in the future use and management of the Forest.

I adamantly oppose any new or recommended Wilderness or Wild & Scenic River designations. There is simply no need or justification for additional Wilderness, because there is already ample land designated as Wilderness.

A designation of Primitive Motorized use, or a special Management designation, could be acceptable, consistent with restoring and allowing ongoing year-round motorized (ATV, UTV, motorcycle, and OSV) access. Simply recommending an area of land for potential future Wilderness designation does not mean that land should be managed as though it were a Wilderness.

An important component of a healthy society is the family unit having the ability to enjoy time together on hobby and family-bonding activities.

For many people, that is done by recreating in a National Forest.

The Forests must be managed in such a fashion so as to not only allow, but to encourage multiple uses of the Forest by the widest segment of the population.

Year-round motorized access must be permitted in such a way that any type of restrictive designation that is imposed does not cut off or bisect access to nearby recreational areas.

There must not be any additional road or trail decommissioning. These roads and trails are critical, not only for recreational activities, but for ongoing access to allow for tree thinning, fire prevention, and fire fighting activities. Forest health is best achieved by wise application of human intervention techniques such as thinning, selective cutting, pest reduction, and logging activities.

I fully support "out and back" and especially "loop" trails accessible by all types of motorized use throughout all of the Nez Perce, Clearwater, and all other NF lands in Idaho. Indeed, a trail system should be built to allow OSV and OHV's to travel the full North to South length of the State of Idaho.

Recreational use of the NF is critical to the livelihoods of residents in towns all around NF areas. Increasing and promoting recreational use of the NF system is imperative to the economies of these towns, and therefore the economic impacts must be a deciding component of Forest Management practices & policies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please choose Alternative X defined in the Draft EIS as the path forward.