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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Have lived in Idaho my entire life. Be hard to count the number of trips hiking, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, 4wheeling, camping...etc. First trip in 1971 to Gospel lakes, self guided river trips down every major river, camped and travel through out entire Nfork area. Grew up on a ranch, raised a family of 4 playing in the woods and on the rivers. Was a wildlands fire fighter in summers throughout college, worked in lumber industry; hunted and fished with respect for animals. All in all have a fair background and feel for several sides of the wilderness issues.

a) Gets so discouraging to constantly hear more acres are being locked up. We really DON'T need more acres where only a few can use (primarily Outfitters and wealthy outsiders). Gospel Hump area fishing, tree cover, and number of wildlife has decreased from when it was open to the public (just an honest opinion from observation over 30+ years...and yes there are only 4 lakes I haven't hiked into).

b) Forest Service is in the Dept of Agriculture, to be of service through action (yes that should include treating timber as a crop and not let it rot and burn as in Wilderness). We really "do NOT" need more acres locked up and turned into a Park for a select few with horses and backpacks. Wilderness will mean even less revenue forest wide, therefore less management, less maintenance of existing roads...the cycle of decline will continue even faster than it has.

c) Alternative-W&Y are a definite NO. Alternative-Z is a wolf in sheep's clothing (clever disguise to lockup the area under the pretense of still allowing snow travel, but with a quick swipe of the pen that will get taken away). Past actions deserve the distrust(covered in later comment). Alternative-X is only acceptable alternative out of the four given.

d) Not maintaining roads is one thing (I get it, no more timber sales with all the self imposed red tape and litigation, thus no inflow of cash). Watched time and time again (especially in Nfork area) "our" tax dollars opening roads up so they could be tank trapped and obliterated. Personally hiked numerous of the old roads where there were 12"+ dia trees growing in the middle of the roads, and impassable by any motorized vehicle, but yet the past policies required spending needed tax dollars to remove the roadways. That is crazy, I say let the local Departments make the decisions, manage the forest, and stop wasting money mandated policies (like x number of roads or acres must be set aside).

e) The wolf issue has been a HUGE mistake, where a few with a vision of myth and legend have release such destruction by the great re-introduction falisy. Had to give up hunting in one of my favorite areas on the fringe of the Malard Larkins after 21years. All due to the decimated elk population from un-managed wolf populations. Still tired of seeing blood patches of partial eaten' kills up and down the Nfork roads in the winter time. Moose driven up off the rivers to barely survive up high and no breeding back all the young ones slaughtered down low. The wolf isn't bad, it's just the inept human policies of dictating they go unchecked, and total lack of acknowledging the facts in the process.

f) SUMMARY: Alternate-X ok. W&Y-heck NO. Z-no because it will eventually turn into Y.