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Comments: While I support the goals of this project, I do have concerns with the road closures and decommissioning. There has been a mass increase in OHV traffic on public lands this year. OHV sales saw a 45% increase across the country and many people flocked to public lands as their normal recreational activities were limited by COVID-19.

In order to accommodate this use the Forest Service should be looking for opportunities to create additional OHV routes to disperse use and increase user satisfaction. Old roads can be converted to trails which allows the removal of culverts and lowers maintenance standards. This not only lowers costs but also allows riders more opportunities which disperses use and reduces tread impacts as not all riders will be on the same trails. Roads are removed from inventory, habitat quality is improved, and resource protection is increased. In line with the project goals, an OHV route does not have to directly follow the old road bed and can wind within the road corridor. This allows the route to be purpose built with water control in mind. This leads to a decrease in sedimentation over the existing road with a large tread watershed.

The roads proposed for closure/decommissioning provide excellent opportunities for recreational use and could be connected by short designed trail segments. I encourage the Forest Service to examine the possibility of creating a new OHV route system in this area.