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First name: Jeff

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Payette Forest:

There are portions of the Payette that should be off-limits to motorized travel, and Upper Rapid River is one of these. It is a Wild & Scenic River corridor, it supports anadromous fish and other sensitive species, and it deserves to be protected from the erosion, sedimentation, and physical streambed and streambank damage that occurs with motorcycles and four-wheelers. I strongly urge you not to change the current, non-motorized management prescription for this area.

I understand that you propose to have "turn-arounds" or "turn-backs" on the trails at stream crossings where motorized users would be asked not to ford the River or significant streams. Is the Forest proposing to enforce such closures? I am aware of no proposal that you would do so, I seriously question how effective or practical attempted enforcement would be in any event. I have seen many instances where motorized vehicle users do not respect such closures. The result will be vehicles degrading streams, and Rapid River itself.

If the Payette decides to go forward with this proposal to allow motorized use, is it also prepared to immediately rescind that decision and return to a fully non-motorized status should even a single violation occur? I would like a response to that question.

Finally, authorizing motorized vehicle use in the Upper Rapid River WSR corridor likely is a violation of federal law due to the inevitable degradation of the river that will occur.

Please keep the current non-motorized designation in place.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fereday