

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/23/2021 11:00:00 AM

First name: Dennis

Last name: Baird

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been visiting the valley of Rapid River off and on for about forty years, often with horse users and sometimes with tribal members who fish and hunt there. The valley is very narrow, and has become a great place to hear only river sounds and the wind during recent years where it became one of the few (only?) places on the New Meadows District not handed over to machine use.

There are no good reasons at all to change things after they were fixed by litigation.

The Rapid River trail system is both a wilderness access system and a key component of a Wild River. Trail bikes and other machines do not have a role in the management of either resource. This a beloved and popular trail as it now is. Because of its low elevation, it is fairly heavily used even in the winter. The valley which contains most of the trail system is very, very narrow, and any motorized noise will travel far.

Since virtually the entire rest of the District is open to a wide range of machine use, I cannot understand why this relatively small quiet remnant now must be compromised. It just seems unlikely to me that the District staff happened to be sitting around the office when someone popped up and said: wow--we need trail bikes in Rapid River.

The scheme being proposed--some sort of block, corral, wall (who knows what and worse, how much will this cost?)--will never work. Even the most law abiding trail biker is going to see this blockage, note that a fine trail continues beyond it, and then zoom right down to the river. This whole idea is crackpot. It was tried on the Nez Perce NF and was a complete failure. It might work if you based FS law enforcement full time at each trail corral. but is that affordable or doable in any way?

Keeping the current, machine free status quo is the only choice that makes legal or economic sense. It is also the only fair and balanced choice given the dominance of machine use in the vast majority of the rest of the District. This is not a big spot. Just leave it alone.

Please keep me fully informed of your decision.