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Comments: First let me state that I shot an elk in Rapid River last year and have hunted the drainage for decades. As motorized use has increased in the last several years elk have moved into the more remote and steeper terrain or onto private property where the game animals which are supposed to be managed by the state are actually managed by the landowners. In the proposed elk hunting rules for the coming seasons the elk hunting regulations are giving 1000 landowner controlled hunts for cow elk in the units bordering the Southern edge of the Rapid River drainage. That is because of the uncontrolled use of motorized use in that area has denuded the public land of elk. The USFS May say it is illegal to have motorized access south of Rapid River but enforcement is almost non-existent. And now the Forest Service proposes opening more public land to motorized access. This will only worsen the problem. I do not believe the turnarounds proposed at the opening sites proposed are going to be in the least effective. I have been on the main Rapid River trail when there was legal access 15 years ago, encountering motorcycles hunting off of the main 177 trail, complained to them about it and being threatened in return. I expect more of the same.

This is what is really going to happen when you open these 2 trails to motorcycles: the motorized people will go all the way to the main trail, they will go up and down the creek, dumping silt into the Salmon habitat, until they get close to the area commonly used by day hikers, they will wipe out the private elk hunting guided business in the area, and they will further destroy hunting opportunities on public land.

I am an old man and do not have many years left of being able to carry elk quarters out of steep country. I would, however, like to believe that my kids and grandkids would have the opportunity to hunt in the general session in this local area. If the USFS was serious about protecting this resource I would suggest that they eliminate the ATV trail that goes from the Black Lake Road to Paradise Creek. That would be a much wiser and decent decision than this sop to the motorized lobby.