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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing you in support of the non-motorized use alternative to the Rapid River Travel Management Project.

I urge you to reject the opening of any part of the Wild Rapid River watershed to motorized travel by motorcycles. I have hiked the Rapid River trail and found it to be of remarkable beauty and tranquility, with abundant wildflowers and signs of wildlife. I am concerned that motorized recreation would degrade the natural character of the trail and its surroundings.

Motorized use would increase trail erosion and could decrease water quality by increasing sediment discharged into the river. The ease of access of this trail from the highway and town makes it likely that the trail would see frequent use by motorcyclists, potentially in large numbers, further increasing the risk for erosion. Additionally, the noise pollution generated by motorized vehicles would stress wildlife (not to mention human hikers) that currently inhabit or pass through the area, including large mammals.

Allowing motorized recreation on these trails violates Congress intent to protect the entire watershed through the Wild Rapid River designation. Please take action and permanently prohibit motorized travel in the Congressionally-designated Wild Rapid River watershed.

Thank you for your commitment to the responsible stewardship of our public lands.