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First name: Ricky

Last name: McCleese

Organization: Elkins Creek Horse Camp&Tack Shop, LLC

Title: Owner/Operator

Comments: Comment Project: Trail Seasonality Forest Plan Amendment.

I am in support of removing the trail closure dates for recreation from the forest plan. As a recreation user, trail builder and maintenance and recreation business owner I can speak well of my experience with recreational trails and impact of users. Trails are a very important part of culture for the mental, emotional physical and economic well-being of the people and community. Trails should be maintained as well for the integrity of the forest land. Since the pandemic I have seen an increase in outdoor recreation with a need to have accessibility especially from locals to the forest and not on a seasonal basis but a regular basis. It has been a long time standard for WNF to close the majority of recreation from campgrounds to trails for a long period of time. I believe removing the closure dates from the forest plan will bring accessibility to the forest in the manner in which is needed. Balancing the needs of recreational users access would be a step in providing optimal outdoor recreation for all. I support the removal of closure dates for trails from the forest plan.

Thank you