Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/12/2021 1:33:33 AM
First name: Anna
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed project: East Fork South Fork Restoration and Access Management Plan.

It would have been beneficial to have Subpart A and B included in the Project documentation as it was referenced in the document titled "EFSFRAMP_ProjectInitiationScopingDoc". I requested these documents from Ranger Joshua Simpson - who was listed as a source to contact with questions - but received no reply. I had also requested clearer maps to assess the prompts in the Scoping Document. The maps do not clearly relay where proposed new trail will go in, where proposed trail designations will change, nor where proposed changes to dispersed camping will occur. Having on-the-ground knowledge of the area, I was able to make an educated comment.

I would urge that Quartz Creek Trail #67 be designated a Class I and III OHV accessible trail, and not turned into a system road.

I support the new 1 mile of motorized trail that would run in the Wilson Mine area near Profile Summit, but urge it be limited to Class I and III OHV, as well as other non-motorized options.

I support designating approximately 1 mile of system in the Thunder Mtn. Area to provide access to the Marble Creek and Lookout Mtn. Trailheads. I support approximately 2 miles of new motorized trail in the Thunder Mtn. Area, but urge that it be limited to Class I and III OHV.

I do not agree with "managing access to and location of dispersed camping opportunities" within the project area. Dispersed camping does just that: it disperses folks so that no one area is impacted dramatically. Dispersed camping options are already limited on the Payette and to limit them further would take away from any given person's ability to truly be able to get out into nature and away from the crowds. Furthermore, the maps and figures provided are not clear of what areas would see the impact of "managing" dispersed sites.

I'm in support of designating the Missouri Creek Road as ML2 from the Warren Profile Gap Road to the trailhead to incorporate the loop BUT only if lowering the designation of the road doesn't lead to an excuse for closure later because of the need for maintenance to upkeep it.

I disagree with the restoration treatments proposed on approximately 70 miles of mining roads. These roads are rich in the area's history and culture and have not been abandoned, but instead utilized by off-road motor vehicles. I would urge that these unofficial routes be added to the Travel Management Plan and motor vehicle use maps as designated routes. I would also request that trails #070, #074 and #069 be designated for Class III OHV use, in addition to other non-motorized single-track use. There are volunteers and volunteer organizations such as Treasure Valley Trail Machine Association (TVTMA) and Central Idaho Trail Riders Association (CITRA) that have proven that they have the ability to mobilize help and perform trail work across a large geographical area. By designating the trails mentioned above, it also allows for the Payette National Forest to access and benefit from the OHV grant funds.

The greater McCall, Idaho area, including the area that is referenced in this project scoping, benefits greatly from off-road users of all classes visiting the area. The economic impact from OHV visitors is beneficial to rural communities like Yellow Pine that rely on tourism to support their establishments like the Yellow Pine Tavern.

Along with dining, some choose to take advantage of nearby hotels/camping/accommodations, gas is purchased to both get to and from but also to power the off-road machines, and the funds from the OHV stickers purchased go directly back into helping maintain the trails.

It's critical with recreationists growing in number, to also grow the number of trails folks of every avenue (OHV, hike, mountain bike, equestrian) have access to. This goes back to the same principle I mentioned before with the dispersed camping: the more area/trails we have access to, the less impact we see on any one given trail.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed project.

Regards,
Anna Baklund