Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/15/2021 7:04:42 PM First name: Michael Last name: Gerringer Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a Big Creek homeowner I am vitally interested in the EFSF RAMP project. While I understand that much of the current discussion on scope is focused on clarifying which routes are legal or not and to what specific vehicle classes, it is impossible to ignore that the Forest Service has been systematically reducing access throughout the Payette against both common sense and the public interest. There have been numerous instances of the FS simply leaving existing roads off the vehicle maps and then subsequently closing or obliterating those same roads in subsequent years "because they are not on the map" - circular logic at best which is indicative of the FS not really taking local public interest into consideration.

Please do not reduce access to the rich history and vast resources of the EFSF RAMP area. I applaud clarifying where road rules are unclear and cleaning up illogical road/access continuity issues from previous mapping. This can be accomplished without reducing existing access.

As to the conservation elements of the plan, good stewardship is critical to the future of the Forest. What seems to get lost is that eliminating access creates significant inequity in the ability to utilize and enjoy the Forest. If you must be in strong physical shape, able to travel on foot virtually everywhere, and have the very expensive camping equipment required to spend multiple nights in the Forest - its not really public land. It can only be enjoyed by limited few. Maintaining options for various types of vehicle travel is the inclusive approach to ensuring that the broadest population can enjoy and learn from the Forest. The more awareness of the beauty the more support and behavior toward conservation and sustainable use.

Please carefully consider keeping/opening as much road access as possible. Closing roads in the EFSF area will have at least one unintended and unwelcome consequence of pushing additional traffic and people into the Big Creek valley. Not good for either conservation or traffic safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the project.