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Organization: The Yellow Gem Mine

Title: Operator/Partner

Comments: Thank you for taking our comments.

I drug my feet until now, wondering what I matter -- others have data, attachments, words.

I care deeply, so I'll speak up.

I have 124 years of family history in Big Creek, Elk Summit, Stibnite, and Thunder Mountain starting with Great-Grandpa Dan McRae in 1897. We all cared. I've watched parts of all generations live or visit there, work or rest there, and thrive on outings all over the backcountry. I found my oasis and healing there, came to life in those valleys and mountains. Now I have Wilbur Wiles' beloved opal mine on Monumental, and treasure both the chance and the place, even though access is harder in a fire torn forest. The Goat Fire burned most of our deeded, private property on Mud Creek.

Yes I care, please don't close any more roads.

It denys access for fire teams.

It destroys fire breaks as the roads become overgrown with short fuels.

It directly and hugely harms the survivability of small towns near the PNF.

It erases history. Where is the Stewardship in that?

It denys access for the public on public lands.

It denys access for recreational use on roads steeped in history.

It excludes people who work and can't get the extra time off required to hike.

It completely excludes a huge segment of the population who can't physically walk the land anymore. Driving a quad or motorcycle or jeep is the only way many - most - can enjoy their public land, their backcountry, at all.

Closing roads locked my Grandparents out of their homeland. His whole generation, with history in or a love for the mountains, was crushed to loose so much. I grew up in Big Creek watching that happen.

Please don't close any more roads. What was done to the Cinnabar road seems underhanded, there is nothing sustainable in that kind of decision.

Please stop stop closing roads. I watched my Grandpa seeth about this for decades, but instead I will speak up and say I think it's a bad idea for fire safety, and it's not good Stewardship of the public's land.

I appreciate the time you took to read this, thank you.

Carrie Pitts

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