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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My family and I are intensely interested in this project. I represent the family, the heirs of my grandfather's Idaho estate. We have ties to the area being studied in this project going back over 100 years and own property that has been adversely affected by actions in the recent past and will likely be impacted by this study or some other assessment in the future. We have traveled thousands of miles in this area on the roads. In general, we do not support studies transparently proposed to advance the obliteration of existing roads and trails in the forest.

Our main concern has been and remains access to 500 acres of private property at Cinnabar via the Sugar Creek Road. We contend this primary access was closed illegally. In a court ruling, the listed closure of the road in the 2007 TMP, 2008 ROD and 2010 EA was invalidated. Therefore, we view this project as an excellent opportunity to study the Sugar Creek Road and determine reasonable conditions under which the road can be reopened for the owners and others desiring to recreate in the area.

We remain convinced the Sugar Creek Road is the only reasonable and safe access to our private property. The so-called alternative through Stibnite, up Monumental and then down the cliff near Cinnabar Peak takes an hour longer and involves significant risk. Furthermore, we are unable to move equipment onto the property via this route. In sum, we have effectively been denied the ability to engage in a wide variety of activities on our property.

Although the Collaborative was unable to arrive at a consensus recommendation, we feel this historic road has value and importance to the Yellow Pine area beyond our access. It should not be decommissioned or obliterated. If a bridge over Sugar Creek is necessary to reopen the road or support a Special Use Permit, then this determination should be made as soon as possible.

To reiterate, the Sugar Creek Road should be reopened at the earliest possible time. This NEPA study for the EFSF RAMP affords an opportunity address the environmental issues of the road, evaluate options and find a course of action that respects the concerns of those most affected.