

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/24/2021 4:26:41 PM

First name: Laura

Last name: Johnston

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing as a resident of the area covered by the forest plan. My concerns are threefold.

The first concern is managing conflicts between recreational use and other interests. The upswell of use by the public has caused damage to sensitive biological species, trampling of vegetation, and noise and disturbance for wildlife. A management plan that restricts the number of campsites and people to the carrying capacity of the area is critical. Staffing for compliance, clean up and education need to be a piece of the solution. Areas that are ideal for recreation should be protected from logging, mining and other non compatible uses. Areas of recreation need to be segregated between motorized and non motorized to allow both user groups freedom to participate without conflict. I ski, hike, camp and bike on public lands and am aware of the increased pressure that the popularity of these activities has created. Emphasis needs to be on providing the experience but protecting the experience at the same time - which means more specified management.

The second concern is that grazing and logging should not be subsidized by the public. If the value of these activities does not pay in the marketplace then they need to be held in place for the future when demand will be greater. The regeneration of our forests for our future needs is a more critical use of public funds. Planting, thinning, soil protection, stream protection are better uses of public funds for creating a future where wood products and the associated costs are paid by the consumer. Areas that contain critical species should be identified and managed for protection.

The third concern is that society is changing and the forest plan needs to reflect more attention to increased recreational demand, the hiring of staff who can monitor and educate, adapting to changes in climate that affect forest health, water and air quality. The plan should be designed to offer options in the future rather than limiting decision making. Input from all user groups should be built in on a regular basis so that issues are addressed in a timely and fair manner. Decisions should be made balancing the needs of all user groups and the economic realities.

No one can foresee the future but change is a given. The forest plan needs to reflect this and allow flexibility for managers to adjust and the public to continue to have real input.

Thank you for the work that has been put into the plan and the opportunity to comment.