

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/5/2022 5:18:57 PM

First name: Tanley

Last name: Dickson-Spencer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a member of the public who accesses this area for recreational purposes as well as a local business owner whose business is also affected by this continued and prolonged closure, I would like to assert that the continued closure, without a clear timeline for a phased (or other) opening, will have serious and multiple negative effects on the local economy, perpetuates public mistrust of a federal entity, is not fulfilling public interest and needs. Understanding the need for public safety is important however, there are numerous examples of roadways similarly affected by wildfire that have been successfully re-opened to accommodate at least some traffic if not reopened completely. Charred and burnt trees still stand close to these roadsides. There seems to be a different rubric applied to this closure in comparison. Inconsistent messaging along with clear timelines to establish a phased reopening has not been forthcoming. If this was purposeful or not, it serves to cause confusion, irritation and frustration for the public. Business communities that rely on recreational resources as a source of traveler dollars are suffering in ways that are extremely difficult to bounce back from and there have not been forms of assistance to interruption and disruption of business due to lack of visitors. Please, this isn't just about being able to do anything and everything we want regardless of the danger. It's about planning, strategy and clear, consistent communication.

Thank you.