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First name: Chris

Last name: Norden

Organization:

Title:

Comments: This Idaho family of public land users urges you to maintain existing forest plan elk habitat standards and close all of the 2011 travel plan trails to motorized use, including Kelly Creek, Weitas-Bighorn, Fish Creek, Hungery Creeks, Great Burn, and included parts of the Mallard-Larkins.

For both hunters as well as all citizens concerned with the ecological health of our public lands, the current habitat standards for elk in fact set a necessary minimum bar for how all our roadless public lands should be managed and protected. In particular, allowing motorized uses in places that had previously been closed to such degradations is necessary to preserve the health of our remaining unprotected, non-wilderness designated roadless lands and ecosystems. Of concern to this Idaho family of public land users is the fact that current undiluted elk standards also benefit other sensitive and at-risk species like lynx, fisher, wolverine, grizzlies, and bull trout. As we understand it, the core mission of the Forest Service is to protect our public lands and the living inhabitants who depend on those lands, not dilute protections whether to suit the demands of recreational users, industrial users, or anyone else. At minimum, follow existing laws, don't seek to dilute or avoid them!

And please note that citizen-scientists such as ourselves who study ecosystem dynamics and natural processes in self-willed wild lands should also be counted and respected as recreational users also, despite the fact that we only use motorized vehicles begrudgingly to get to the edge of these invaluable and sadly shrinking wild places. As such, we very much object to these remaining wild places being opened up to even more motorized intrusion and abuse. Such intrusions and abuses degrade our own recreational use of our public lands via degraded trail and camp conditions, degraded water-courses, degraded wildlife habitat, reduced and degraded wildlife viewing opportunities, and the actual stink and noise of repeated encounters with motorized vehicles in places where they do not belong and are not needed.