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First name: Patrick

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Organization: Idaho Afoot, LLC

Title: Owner

Comments: I would like to offer my support for the Twelve Mile Trail Construction (#65294) project. Having a lower trailhead in the Twelve Mile drainage, with trails that connect to the existing upper trails, would be a huge benefit to the community of Salmon. As it stands now, the condition and nature of the road to the existing upper trailhead is a barrier of entry for many. The road is rough, eats tires, and in places dangerous to drivers with limited mountain road travel experience. While we live in an outdoor recreation paradise here, one thing we lack is accessible single track trails close to the valley floor. There are very few in the area that can be accessed quickly from the highway or town. Not everyone can or should be driving miles up into the mountains on borderline treacherous roads to be able to recreate.

I certainly understand concerns about potential impact on the Twelve Mile Creek fishery, and grazing permittees in that drainage. However, with diligent planning and construction impact to both these should be lessened with the completion of this project because you will be taking traffic off that road. It seems to be motorized use all the way up that drainage is more detrimental to all entities than trail use.

I own and operate a company that outfits and guides trail running and hiking in this area, so having more 'low country' single track access is certainly of interest to our business. Such expanded access will prove economically beneficial, not just to businesses such as mine, but to our community overall. Low, single track access, close to town is something we lack that communities more known as trail use destinations have. This project would be a huge step in making Salmon more of a trail use destination that people seek out.

I strongly support this project and see it being massively beneficial to our community from a social, economic, and health perspective. I also believe it would reduce detrimental use in the Twelve Mile drainage.