Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/22/2024 9:25:34 PM First name: Randall Last name: Smith Organization:

## Title:

Comments: I have been exploring our national parks and wilderness areas for the past 25 years. I cherish that the Wilderness Act was enacted to preserve the wilds of America. Its strict prohibitions should not be altered to allow a narrow administrative exception to create developed recreational activities in Wilderness. The USFS's primary duty is to protect the Wilderness in its natural state and uphold the terms of the Wilderness Act. Less than 3 percent of land in the lower 48 states is protected Wilderness and it is under threat from growing popularity of outdoor recreation pressures, by four-wheelers, by climbers seeking to install fixed bolts into rocks, and by the next new great thing man creates that doesn't coincide with preservation of our Wilderness. Agencies have no duty to help develop these non-Wilderness preserving extraneous opportunities. I ask that no allowance for be made for such exceptions to clear terms of the Wilderness.