

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/1/2024 10:40:52 PM

First name: Ethan

Last name: Richards

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings! I just have one comment which is that I am disappointed to see that there isn't much discussion going on regarding actual use of public lands by human beings for purposes other than extractive industries/irrigation, etc. One of the primary benefits of publicly-managed lands at this moment in history is that they provide a place for healthy recreation and a way for people to connect with the land. Certainly, management for preservation of ecosystems and protection of threatened wildlife are important. But ultimately, human users need to be considered as well. I'm not well-versed enough in the vagaries of Forest Service planning procedures to know if this is a deliberate omission, if it is simply something that hasn't been accounted for in the forest plan revision template, or if it isn't being considered because adding trails/trailheads/roads/infrastructure costs money and is likely (based on past experience in our region) to result in an avalanche of usually disingenuous lawsuits arguing that virtually any attempt to do anything anywhere in the Northern Rockies will lead to the immediate demise of the entire grizzly population. Obviously some of these are things that need to be addressed by congress or the executive branch, but some additional commentary explaining why at a moment in which use of public land is growing, as is the population in our region, the forest plan revision doesn't address the need to improve infrastructure to accommodate a significantly higher number of human users would be appreciate.

Many thanks and good luck getting everything planned out.