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First name: Tim

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I Support Access and Active Management in the Northwest Forest Plan

Dear Northwest Forest Plan,

I enjoy accessing and recreation on public lands and believe continued access is important for all. I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback for the Northwest Forest Plan.

I am concerned with the management of the northwest forest. Access to the public through roads and motorized use is crucial for many reasons. I believe motorized routes should not be closed arbitrarily through restrictive designations and management decisions, and that the USFS should maximize the number of routes available.

The economic benefit for local communities is a factor the USFS needs to consider. Recreation is a trillion dollar a year industry. Motorized use on public lands has grown tremendously in popularity and the USFS should be looking for ways to help the local communities capitalize on these opportunities. As well, motorized routes not only accommodate motorized users but also emergency response teams. These forests also contribute to local economies through timber harvest, recreation, grazing, rock hounding and other contributions. All of these require public access throughout these forests.

In order to advance equity of access on public land for those with mobility impairment disabilities, it is important to recognize that motorized recreation is often times the only way those with mobility impairment disabilities are able to access public lands. Current policies actively discriminate against this group of underserved Americans and I would like to see this travel plan help connect all users with public lands. Allowing e-bikes on non-motorized routes is another way to address this as they have the same impact as a human powered bike.

In order to prevent and avoid adverse resource impacts and user conflict, the USFS should be actively managing the area and routes. Through different management strategies and proper education, negative impacts can be properly mitigated without closures. As popularity for outdoor recreation grows, the USFS should be looking at ways to provide reasonable access that will sustain the growing numbers of visitation. Restricting use and concentrating use will only increase impact in the remaining open areas.

In short, I believe that the USFS can manage for all types of recreation within this area. Motorized and non-motorized users can co-exist and neither should be restricted to accommodate the other.

Sincerely,

Tim Carmack

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