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First name: David

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Organization:

Title:

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

Dear Northwest Forest Plan,

I love hanging out and having fun in public lands, and I think it's super important for everyone to keep enjoying them. Thanks for letting me share my thoughts on the Northwest Forest Plan.

I'm a bit worried about how they're managing the northwest forest, especially when it comes to public access through roads and motorized stuff. I think it's important not to randomly close motorized routes with strict rules and decisions. The USFS should try to keep as many routes open as possible.

Think about the local communities too - they can benefit a lot from people enjoying recreational activities. Recreation is a massive industry, bringing in loads of money. Motorized use in public lands has become super popular, and the USFS should find ways to help local communities cash in on this trend. Closing routes through forest designations would be a bad move, concentrating more people into smaller areas. Motorized routes are not just for fun; they're also crucial for emergency response teams.

These forests contribute to local economies in various ways, like timber harvest, recreation, grazing, rock hounding, and more. All of this needs public access throughout the forests.

Let's talk about fairness for people with mobility impairment disabilities. Discrimination against them in federal land management agencies is a real issue, hiding in plain sight. Motorized recreation is often the only way they can access public lands. Current policies are unfair to this group, and I think this travel plan should make sure all users can connect with public lands. Allowing e-bikes on non-motorized routes could help, as they're similar to human-powered bikes.

To avoid problems with resources and conflicts, the USFS should actively manage the area and routes. With the right strategies and education, we can handle negative impacts without shutting things down. As outdoor recreation gets more popular, the USFS should find ways to give reasonable access that can handle the growing number of visitors. Limiting use and concentrating it will just make the impact worse.

I'm all for camping in public lands, and having a bunch of designated routes is the best way to make sure everyone has access to great camping spots. Dispersed camping should be allowed along the appropriate areas near each route. Pullouts and spur routes often lead to awesome camping spots, and they should be recognized for that.

Freedom of speech is a big deal, and the First Amendment protects groups gathering and having organized rides. Limiting routes could mess with those rights. I don't want the USFS playing favorites with any user group. They should manage for all types of recreation in this area. Motorized and non-motorized users can totally coexist without one group getting restricted for the other.

Wildfires are a huge threat to the Northwest Forest. Bad fires have messed up communities, habitats, and forests because of poor forest management. To protect these national forests and the people who live, work, and have fun there, we should manage the land to reduce wildfires. Roads act like a natural fire barrier and should be part of the plan to keep things safe.

Sincerely,
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