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Comments: Re: [External Email]Forest plan changes effects on roads - maps and data

Good evening

I was taking a moment to look through some files and try to catch up on the plan revision and I am wondering where the maps for roads is located. With such a large and important project I would have expected to easily find a map specifically outlining all current and existing open and seasonally open roads, and then to outline what changes are being considered.

Based on 2 maps I did find relatively quickly, I am concerned that the intent with this plan is to significantly restrict highway legal motorized traffic, which seems to be the push in a variety of locations around the nation. By not showing clear maps and discussing in detail every road, this intent appears even more clear. I find this very frustrating as a disabled person who is restricted to vehicle based recreation, as road restrictions and closures has a direct negative impact on my ability to enjoy the same Forest as backpackers and hikers, and also does not fall in line with managing for 'multiple use'. It begs the question, are roads being purposefully omitted from these maps to not show what roads will be closed? I hope I am just not looking in the correct location.

Why are there not any highway legal 4x4 specific roads proposed in this plan, especially with the ever growing 'overland' crowd - even something similar to the Flathead National Forest and their Wild Bill Jeep park, which is even officially sanctioned by Jeep as a "Jeep Badge of Honor". This allows for another recreation use, one of which is getting more popular.

Now I do understand that a forest management plan is not directly a transportation plan. However, it cannot be ignored that outlines of specific management areas (such as IRA, wilderness, etc) will have a real and direct impact on transportation, ie. Roads. So, to not include road specific discussion in this plan is to avoid the conversation of the intent of such large areas of IRA and wilderness - which appears as if it is being purposefully constructed to further reduce and restrict highway legal motorized travel. Once large IRA and wilderness areas are signed off on, if roads are not specifically discussed, those rulings will in fact result in road closures in that designated area. This is a critical aspect that must be discussed in detail.

I would certainly appreciate a map of the existing and proposed changes to all roads in the Forest, in detail, and even better would be access to KML's or a geodatabase, and am a little disappointed that information is not easily, readily available for the public to see.