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Comments: As residents of Billings County, ND, my family and I have concerns about this travel management project involving the Little Missouri National Grasslands.

1. Law enforcement, or rather lack thereof. The federal government does not have enough funding to cover adequate law enforcement in the LMNG system. There is high turnover in these positions. Increased travel in the LMNG will equate to increased activity that isn't always lawful and good for the resource. Enforcement will not be increasing, and that is worrisome as there are already issues keeping ahead of the bad apples utilizing the LMNG.

2. Keeping people on the actual roads that are for public use. Once off roading is done, who will be there to prevent others from following the same path? Once a trail is visible, you cannot erase it. Signage will not keep people off trails that were not meant to be trails. Unless they are reclaimed, there will be more and more "unofficial" trails established before anyone can put a stop to it.

3. Mapping issues. As of now, some private mapping companies are not listening to local or FS updates, especially those in regard to private versus public land. Trespassing results when people do not have the proper information. FS cannot ensure they will be able to get this straightened out. They already have issues doing so.

4. Federal funding. The federal government is in debt. There is no assurance that the government will have adequate funds to properly maintain these roads once they are deemed public on a map.

5. Fire danger. Increased access means increased activity which means an increase for wildfires to start. Again, funding and enforcement and cooperation needs to increase. There is never enough (if any) federal personnel for fighting fires in the LMNG, and we already discussed limited enforcement. Cooperation with local agencies is lacking - local level officials are the boots on the ground. Local level agencies are the first to respond to fires and emergencies in the LMNG. If these agencies feel the need to declare fire emergencies and burn bans within their jurisdiction, then the federal land inside these jurisdictions should have to follow suit. COOPERATION and RESPECT would be appreciated by those who live and serve in the communities around the LMNG.

6. Again, the federal government wants to encourage more use of the LMNG. Yet the federal government is never able to staff or fund or respond to issues that arise from this usage. The government seems to be so happy to be a landowner yet so unprepared to take care of the land themselves. With that, the resource tends to suffer, and frustration grows at the local level.

Figure out how to manage the increased use of these federal lands before you open the floodgates.

Thank you,
Julie Reis and family