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Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my concern and opposition regarding the proposed closure of the Caterpillar OHV Trail and other off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails near the Pinnacles Staging Area as part of the [Project Name] (Project #61613). As an avid off-roading enthusiast, I value and appreciate the responsible use of public lands for recreation, including Jeep and dual-sport activities that contribute to both personal enjoyment and the local economy.

The timing of this proposal is particularly concerning. Following the significant impact of the Line Fire, which devastated numerous riding trails that may remain closed for years, the decision to further restrict access to existing OHV trails would disproportionately affect our community. The trails that have survived serve as a vital outlet for outdoor enthusiasts and are essential for maintaining the recreational opportunities available to dual-sport riders and off-roading groups. Limiting access further would compound the loss already felt by our community.

Additionally, responsible off-roading fosters a deep connection to nature and promotes outdoor stewardship. Reducing access may inadvertently push enthusiasts into unregulated areas, increasing the potential for environmental harm and safety concerns. Maintaining open, designated trails is crucial for ensuring responsible recreation that supports conservation efforts.

I urge the Forest Service to reconsider these closures, particularly at a time when so many trails have already been lost or severely impacted by natural events. Ensuring that OHV trails with the Jeep symbol remain open will help balance conservation efforts with the continued use and enjoyment of public lands by all recreationists.

Thank you for considering this perspective, and I hope the Forest Service will engage with the OHV community to find balanced solutions that support sustainable access and conservation.

Sincerely,

Brad Roekle

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