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First name: David

Last name: Lynn

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express significant concerns about the proposed road closures described in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for this project. My use of the area-both for hiking and side by side access-depends on a network of open roads and reasonable public access. The shift to designated routes only, with stored roads and blocked access, raises serious questions about whether the project's approach is necessary to meet its stated Purpose and Need, or if it instead undermines the public's ability to use and enjoy these lands.

Closing off access to roads in this area does not just affect a few individuals; it impacts the entire community that relies on our public lands for firewood, household use, recreation, and even emergency access. The DEIS does not clearly explain how restricting access in this way is required to achieve the project's goals, nor does it provide a transparent, enforceable plan for maintaining reasonable motorized access. The lack of detailed data, clear maps, and disclosure of assumptions in the analysis makes it difficult for the public to understand the real-world effects of these proposed closures.

I am especially concerned about public safety and emergency response if access routes are blocked. The DEIS needs to lay out how these factors were considered and why less restrictive alternatives would not be sufficient to meet the project's objectives. There should be a reasonable access-maintaining alternative fully analyzed, so the community can see how their needs and safety have been weighed alongside management goals.

Ultimately, I urge the Forest Service to manage these lands in partnership with the public, not by restricting access without clear necessity or full disclosure. Please provide specific, project-focused information-supported by maps and tables-showing how each proposed closure is required to meet the stated Purpose and Need and ensure the public can review and comment on all on-the-ground impacts before any decisions are made.