

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/21/2014 8:23:57 PM

First name: Chris

Last name: Hinds

Organization:

Title:

Comments: No more Wilderness!!

I recreate in the Mt Tayolor area quite a bit. I am NOT in favor of designating any more of our public lands as wilderness. There are MANY places in this area where it is very easy to get away from people if that is a person's desire. When you designate an area as wilderness, it prevents my dog from coming along on hikes. It makes it impossible for me to access many of the more remote places that already have roads or trails. (Wilderness used to be defined as roadless, and IMO that includes roads that were made and now legislated out of existence. It's not wilderness if it was logged, even if that was 50 years ago.

In addition, I have noticed quite a bit of old trails (Snomobile, singletrack, and some old roads) that are now closed to motorized traffic. The trails and roads already exist. Removing them from the officially designated trails map does nothing to remove them from existence, other than allow tickets to be generated for people who are not in possession of the latest official map. This is VERY BAD POLICY. I'd like to see these roads returned to the users!! (And I'd like to see maps published that don't SUCK, but that's another topic...)

It seems everywhere I go, the amount of backroads and trails open to me is getting whittled down. That means more traffic on the remaining roads, and more damage to them. Of course, overuse also can be a reason to shut things down too in the FS's eyes, and that just leads to more overuse on other trails, and more closures.

I'm an outdoors person. I ride a dual sport motorcycle, I trail run, and I mountain bike. I do not wish to see any more areas that I am forbidden to go into, or any more wonderful singletrack trails that I suddenly am not able to ride on my mtn bike. There is plenty of room to roam if a person wishes to get away from everyone.

Please keep ALL forest users in mind when you consider making changes that are designed to prohibit large groups from recreating on PUBLIC lands.

Thank you!

Chris Hinds

Farmington, NM