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First name: Ken

Last name: Mindy

Organization:

Title:

Comments: comments on new forest plan

I would like to submit the following input regarding the forest plan:

I would like to see the forest managed primarily for conservation. I support thinning operations to the extent that they promote forest health and good wildlife habitat. No new road construction should be undertaken, both as a conservation and a cost saving measure. The only new structures allowed should be those that benefit the mission of conservation or replacements for existing structures. I would like every effort made to enhance the habitat of the Mt. Graham red squirrel.

I would like to see a ban on off road motorized vehicles, and I would like to see this ban strictly enforced. On the Grant Hill Loop trail on Mt. Graham, there is a gate with a sign prohibiting motorized travel. I hiked this trail yesterday, and there were numerous tire tracks in a number of different locations. These vehicles frighten wildlife, make noxious fumes, and shatter the natural quiet of the trail. They cause a great deal of erosion, especially since the riders often do not stay on the trail. It is very unpleasant to have a hike interrupted by a noisy, polluting machine that is not supposed to be out on the trail in the first place.

I believe it would be helpful to have a trail head registry for hunters to sign in. If I am going to be out on a trail, I'd like to know if someone is also out there who might be shooting a weapon.

I very much appreciate the fine job of trail maintenance done on Mt. Graham by Forest Service this year, and I hope that hiking will be supported in the plan.

Thank you for considering these ideas.

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