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Comments

After reviewing the proposed rule (monumental task!) I was compelled to comment on a few points.

1.) There should be a comprehensive comparison of proposed changes so that the public can better comment on the proposed new rule. The "lawyer speak" throughout the document with references to sections all over makes it extremely difficult to follow and dissect.

2.) Most of the public is interested in the management of forests for "multiple uses". This should really be emphasised in the purpose statement and called out specifically as timber production, mineral extraction, hunting/fishing, hiking, boating, camping, OHV use, equestrian access, etc... These uses should then be evaluated against the plethora of scientific studies.

3.) The requiremnts or goals for the future of forests need to be evaluated according to past, present, and future conditions before changes in policy are adapted. For instance, if science shows that certain species of flora and or fauna are at risk, then there should be data collected to show past, and present conditions before making policy changes.

I am an avid outdoor sportsman. I enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, off-road motorcycle riding, and camping on Forest Service lands. I am concerned that the proposed plan will allow for broad changes in travel plan management without sufficient data to support trail closures to motorized vehicles. I do support trail closures where necessary. However, these recreationists are responsible and typically do a great deal of work to support environmentally responsible trail systems throughout the forests. Before considering blanket closures, please evaluate alternatives such as keeping single track trails - single tracked and improving run-off control measures through trail restoration and improvements rather than eliminating a large and resourceful user class in the off road community. Access to our forests is key to enjoyment for the vast majority of forest users.

Regards,

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