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Comments:

I am writing about the Motorized Travel Management proposed action. I found a flyer at a local shop. On the flyer it requests comments by 1/20/15, not 1/13/15 as above. I hope you will accept comments until the published date, not the date listed above. I also hope that others do not see the deadline above and decide not to comment. I think you should correct the date on the web page, here.

The wording in your flyer is very vague and implies that there will be no changes to the current travel management plan. I'm not sure why you are requesting input if no changes are being made. This makes me think that there are changes being considered, but they flyer is not clearly specifying them. Since I cannot address any specifics, I have to generally comment that I believe that it's the Forest Service's duty to maintain public access to the public forest. I adamantly oppose any actions that limit motorized use of the public forest. If motorized vehicles are able to traverse a road, despite it's maintenance level, those vehicles should be allowed to utilize that road. Roads should be maintained by the Forest Service or the Forest Service should allow private charities and groups to maintain those roads. Lack of funding is no excuse to limit the public's access to the forest.

The Forest Service has a fiduciary duty to maintain the forests for the public. This includes, most basically, the duty to provide access to the public. Limiting motorized travel is an undue burden on the disabled and elderly who cannot access the forests in other ways. It also discriminates against individuals who enjoy motorized recreation.

I hope you will consider all comments, not just by those groups who seek to limit public access. The last time I was involved with the Forest Service, the Naches Ranger decided to ignore the vast majority of comments supporting road maintenance and sided with the slim minority who wanted access limited. I hope that in this case the Forest Service will consider all comments equally.

Sincerely,

Julie Bosma