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Comments:

I am strongly opposed to closing more of the Salmon-Challis National Forest for WSR's or for Wilderness. My family and extended family have owned property and lived in Salmon for generations. My own family still lives in Idaho and we frequently visit the Salmon area and enjoy the Salmon forests in a variety of ways. While these changes would have severe negative impacts on my own family, that's only part of my major concerns about the proposed changes. The changes would push this area in the opposite direction from where it should be going economically, recreationally, from a fire safety standpoint.

The current residents desperately need the income brought into the area through the many current tourist opportunities. Limiting public access will cause dollars brought into the area from tourism, hunting, fishing, and recreation to dwindle. With a local economy that is already struggling, the area needs more opportunities to utilize and access the natural resources, not less.

Also, limiting access options severely limits opportunities to the elderly and children that could access the forest in vehicles. It's devastating to think that my children will have such limited access to the places where my father, and grandfather, and great grandfather grew up and gained their love for the outdoors and nature! The last thing the American public needs is a change that discourages them from getting outside and enjoying the beauty of nature! The proposed changes do just that. Small children and the elderly will not be capable of accessing so many areas of challenging terrain that they have been able to access in vehicles, ATV's, motorcycles, etc. in the past. The forest should be readily accessible to all. Not just those with the physical ability to climb such steep mountains or those fortunate enough to own horses.

Additionally, there is currently much mis-managed forests in the area that has caused a major increase in wildfires and potentially devastating and deadly future wildfires. Idaho Forests need to be better maintained to mitigate this risk through responsible logging and removal of dead timber.

The proposed changes by the Forest Service do not have the public's best interest in the forefront! They limit economic, and recreational opportunities in the area. Those living in the areas that have enjoyed these mountains for generations should have a strong voice in determining their future use. We oppose the changes and will fight them in every possible way.

Amy Ricks