

January 25, 2019



Salmon Challis National Forest Recommended Wilderness comments:

Please accept these comments as the official comments of the Magic Valley ATV Riders, Inc. (MVATVR). We are an OHV club located in Twin Falls, Idaho with members totaling over 350 from all over southern Idaho and in some cases out of state. If you would like to learn more about us, I would suggest you check our website: www.mvatvr.org.

We are a family organization that's loves utilizing our public lands by visiting them via motorized vehicle. We are a true multiple use organization. We do not ask, nor do we expect exclusive use of our public land. We believe that public land should be available and shared equally by all users. We also believe that one of the prime objectives of any land manager or managing agency should be maximum access to the maximum amount of public land regardless of mode of transportation.

If we go back to 1964 and the original Wilderness bill it designated 9.1 million acres of public land to be forever in Wilderness. That is a lot of land to be excluded from use by a large percentage of the public. The original signers felt that these were special lands deserving of special treatment. I am sure they had no idea that someday there would be 110,000 million acres of our public land taken from many users. Now you are asking for more. The question is why?

The lands you are proposing for Wilderness are multiple use lands and have been so for a lot of years. There has been, logging, mining and motorized travel in these areas. There are old roads that you no longer consider roads, but they are still roads. The so-called trails by you are roads. The Cumberland Road was nothing more than a trail to begin with. Anyplace that has been user to transport people and/or materials is a road.

There are left behind reminders of the multiple motorized historic past in many areas.

Many of the motorized trails have money and sweat invested in them from volunteers, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and the US Forest Service.

All these things should disqualify the recommended areas for Wilderness.

Inclusion of the recommended areas into Wilderness would result in approximately a 90 % reduction is the trail miles available to OHV users.

The economic devastation of adding these areas to Wilderness would be felt long and hard to communities such as: Stanley, Clayton, Challis, Salmon, Mackay, Arco, Leadore and others.

Even though you are calling these areas recommended Wilderness areas, the fact remains that in some cases recommended Wilderness areas are being managed as Wilderness. These in effect become defacto Wilderness which is illegal. From the Wilderness Act:

no Federal lands shall be designated as "wilderness areas" except as provided for in this Act or by a subsequent Act.

Do the right thing manage the land for the people. Do not lock up our public land so our children and grandchildren cannot use it either.

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