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Comments:

Option E allows the widest variety of non-industrial uses.

The wilderness Act was solely created to prevent industrial uses such as mining and oil drilling. At no time was the Wilderness bill intended to reduce the variety of forest users to only those who can walk on their own power 15 -20 miles, or restrict week-end recreation to small clusters of high density users around a few accessible campgrounds.

The Wilderness Act has been enlarged to reduce the variety of accessibility options available to the public. As a senior citizen the advent of electric bikes and wheel-chairs has opened up many opportunities to recreate and enjoy our forests.

In addition, the use of chainsaws, by hikers, bicyclists, horse people, reduced decibel motorcycles and snow mobiles, to clear trails will keep more trails accessible for the increasing number of people using our backcountry.

Our trails are becoming increasingly difficult to use due to lack of maintenance. Dead fall reduces use of the trails, and is increasingly making many areas of scenic solitude inaccessible.

The wilderness designation prohibits even expanding parking lots, toilets at heavily used trailheads.

Hyalite Canyon (Bozeman) is an example where it was proposed to harvest beetle kill trees and create a walkable road with pedestrian trails on the opposite side of the creek from the current road. This could have allowed more foot and bike traffic to enjoy the beautiful terrain and reduce auto emissions. However, the Forest Service decided to avoid litigation, and maintain a heavy traffic roadway to the detriment of those choosing an alternative form of transportation.

To date the Wilderness Act has reduced available trails, access to parking and limited all accessible roads.

National groups who collect funds from many people who will never see, use or recreate our local forests are prohibiting locals from being the hands on deck/good stewards of our public lands.

Opening all forest areas to mechanized equipment will allow local users/volunteer based groups to make our forests more accessible to those who live in the region.