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Comments:

I have been recreated in literally every area of Custer National Forest over the past 40 years as a Native Montanan. From hunting sharptails in eastern Montana to elk hunting in the Lee Metcalf and fishing, backpacking, riding dirtbikes and snowmobiling everywhere in between.

Now my wife and 3 children are participating in these activities actively. We spend 20-30 days per year in wilderness areas and many more in multiple use areas using motorized recreation. I mention this to demonstrate that I am an interested party--this is not an intellectual exercise or a feel-good operation for me; the decisions made will directly impact my recreational opportunities as well as those of my children. I want my children to be able to experience the National Forest in ALL of the ways available to me as a child. This is one reason I support the No Action (or no change to current plan).

I also strongly disagree with the WSA's that have been implemented, as well as any future iterations of the same idea. I see that more are being dreamed up and proposed, including the Backcountry areas. We have legal options available to create Wilderness Areas--these WSA areas are a work-around of the legal avenue that is available. This is another reason I strongly urge that we take No Action.

Also, I read that one main reason for the proposed changes are due to anticipation of further climate change. From everything I've read, this is supposed to cause a drier climate. As such, wheeled travel will have less impact as the greatest impacts are to wet areas. As such, any impact from climate change will be lessened from wheeled travel.

The National Forest should be working to be more inclusive of recreationalists, not limiting us to smaller and smaller areas. In fact, the losses or recreational areas to motorized travel forces legal travel onto smaller areas, increasing any impact that might occur. This is another reason to support multiple use areas. As I view the maps it is impossible to miss the huge areas of existing Wilderness Areas, which I cherish and use. In my lifetime of backpacking I feel that I have only scratched the surface of what is available already.

Please find the attached photos of my family recreating in Custer National Forest (there is room for all of us!):

Kids fishing at Rainbow Lakes in Lee Metcalf (yes, my 7 year old backpacked there--5 miles off-trail)

Kids stopping to fish Ramshorn Lake

Fishing Island Lake on the West Rosebud

Riding Taylor Fork

Elk Hunting in Lee Metcalf

Well, I've tried twice and lost my comment. Very frustrating. I will not attempt again to attach photos. I was hoping to add some personal chops by including some cute photos of the kids recreating in hard-to-access areas--like my daughter at 6 back 7 miles from the trailhead fishing or my wife packing one of many 6 point bull elk from wilderness. Fix your site and I can inundate you with great photos backing up my claims of NF usage!