

3/25/19

Virginia Kelly  
Forest Plan Revision Team Leader  
10 East Babcock  
Bozeman, mt 59715

Dear Virginia,

I attended the Revised Forest Plan meeting on April 22, 2019, at Big Timber, and wish to share some points of view with Revision Plan. I have considerable experience with Timber Management and harvesting, and believe this to be among the top considerations. We all know that the devastating forest fires are mostly due to over matured stands of timber and insects. Some of your proposed alternatives address this. Very little on insect control. I would hope there is more discussion in this area. Plan B comes closest to experiences.

I talked briefly with the Ranger from the Livingston District of a revision that is important to me and several others that have cabins in the Shields River drainage. That is the size of openings at strategic spots on 4 wheeler trails. I understand the openings were planned to allow 4 wheelers thru, but prevented 4 wheel drive pickups and Jeeps.

this has worked very well. But, this was before the advent of the side by side 4 wheeler, which is a little wider and will not fit the opening. I would hope you could consider widening this opening to accommodate these wider vehicles, which don't cause any more damage to trails than 4 wheelers. I am now 79 years old and have a wife that is also a senior citizen. She, in particular does not enjoy the 4 wheeler any more. We now have a side by side that also encourages myself and my wife to enjoy the beautiful crazy mtns. And be able to cross the divide to get to Forest Lake, to go fishing in a lake that I fished in as a kid where I grew up on Cottonwood Crk in the 1940's. One other thing, the closure of this trail is a different date when you hit the Lewis & Clark Natl. forest than it is on Gallatin-Custer. The panel that put meeting at Big timber, were very well prepared able to answer all questions.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Herain