From: Faith Capps [mailto:flcapps@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 13, 2014 2:24 PM
To: FS-appeals-southwestern-regional-office; flcapps@yahoo.com
Subject: Fw: road closures

On Sunday, July 13, 2014 1:03 PM, Faith Capps <flcapps@yahoo.com> wrote:

It is difficult to this write knowing that although you state on p. 8 that our concerns are important, you categorized the majority of our heartfelt input as insignificant. Before you file this please share with all involved power brokers.

It is with deep feelings of sadness and helplessness that we face the closing of NFS roads to the majority of the American public. The senior riders of Luna cherish the fabulous scenery, thrill at the fantastic views, marvel at the masses of wild flowers, and enjoy all the wild life.We love our mountain and would never harm any of it. We are good honest responsible

people who do not tear up mountain sides. We stay on existing roads. Your NVUM admittedly is not accurate pp.58-59. It does not take into account locals who use roads daily nor the retired summer residents who use the roads daily as well as 3 or 4 times weekly for recreational use. Also admitted on p. 196 the forest has no data for motorized use levels. Your report seems to be skewed in favor of non motorized users, yet they also use roads.

Who has the power to do this to the majority of tax paying Americans? Special interest groups who rarely, most have never been here and never will. Groups with money and lawyers. The elite few who are physically able to backpack miles of rough country. People that have the means and know how to keep and transport horses and mules. The existing roads cover very minimal area relative to the vast acreage of NFS land. Even without closing existing roads, the hikers have access to the vast majority of undisturbed forest including already designated wilderness and IRAS. You want to give them more?

The research is inconclusive, incomplete at best. You seem to slant it toward support of Alt. G, while throwing out our comments as not supported by research. Your compiled research/studies could be slanted in the same fashion in favor of Alt C by changing the motorized game retrieval. Nearly every page uses the phrases, potential impact and may result in such and such. I would like to see tables/graphs showing the number of times may and potentially are used verses will result in significant damage.You haven't even checked out specific areas, but super imposed what someone deemed to be like various areas. Even some of the animal studies are not the specific species in question. It is erroronous to act on so little solid evidence no matter now controlled and scientific. More information is needed to support or refute the findings. Alt. C minis the game retrieval could/should be used to support or refute some of the mays and potentials. Keep all of the existing roads open. The foot prints are already there. Select another area with no roads to monitor and compare over time. Find out if keeping existing roads open makes significant differences before closing them. Your document states: NM Surface Water Quality Bureau states that, the water has not been significantly modified by human activities, p. 192. There limited data to support invasive species, p.402. No data to support sedimentation modeling, p. 196. "Overall, no increase in adverse cumulative impacts to aquatic resources, soil resources, riparian and wetland resources, and water quality would be expected with implementation of any action alternatives."p.226. "Therefore, in most cases, ongoing existing uses may proceed with the same intensity with little risk of disturbing birds of prey."p.315. On Mexican Spotted Owl, Literature suggests that raptors are unlikely to be disturbed by routine use of roads, p. 321. There are minimal effects to air quality under Alt. C, p.178. The incremental impacts of the proposed project and its associated alternatives, when added to other past, present, and foreseeable future actions, are at levels that do not cause significant affects to wildlife species or their habitat on the forest. p.375. There's much more that could be dug out. At any rate, you still take the hard nosed, high handed action more closures of G verses C. It seems that you have gotten caught up in trying to apply studies, literature, special interests groups, and environmentalists that you've lost all sense of reason, common sense. You are not considering nor placing high priority on the needs and abilities of the majority of Americans.

Mutual respect is gone. In the past FS was respected, even esteemed. Now, due to FS high handed, disregard to community and the average law abiding, freedom loving Americans that respect is diminishing. Disrespect of people, their feelings, concerns, activities, and livelihoods leads to disrespect of FS. Closing roads open to people 20 years or more, in some

cases all their lives, will lead to anger and can be defeating to everything you are trying to accomplish. Your actions potentailly affect attitudes which may result in negative behaviors. You are seen as bullies taking away freedoms of a free people.
It seems that it would be in your best interest to work with people rather that disregard.

There are a few road closures in particular that I question. 4019Qoff of 220 to Az. 8181, Turner Peak. A lot of the people in our group have NM OHV stickers which are honored in Az. But, Az. does not allow OHV on 275, horizonal numbers. You need street legal which NM does not have. If 4019Q is closed, NM residents can not go around on 275. They would have to trailer. Many of them do not have trailers. There are probably other border roads that pose the same problem. 4019H and 4025X off of 220 are well established roads and do not cross Dillman creek. Foot Prints are there, why close them? 4020Z connects county B 084 west to 19 behind the Luna dump. Why not leave that west section open? Also there is a well established cross over road from county B 083 and B 058. It only crosses one wash. Last year when the San Fransisco River flooded the B 083 crossing many residents had to use the B 058 crossing to get to town and back without going out on the highway. Show us significant proof that driving on these or each one of the other closed roads in Alternative G will cause significant harm, impact to the forest.

You had public input generating thousands of responses. Yet, for the most part it has been like talking to a brick wall. You are doing what you planned from the start. There is no channel for action on our concerns. Just a bureaucratic dictatorship. Where do we turn? It's very frustrating. Our tax dollars are spent to keep us out of what was once our forests. National Parks were established for all Americans and future generations to enjoy. Now, we are faced with power wielding bureaucrats that are heading toward keeping everyone out except FS employees and the elite physically fit. This is not what Teddy Roosevelt envisioned.

insignificant faith capps,