



Letter: Custer forest plan aims to appease motor users

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Under way is an overzealous attempt by the Custer National Forest to appease and accommodate motorized users. By sleight of hand, the travel planning draft environmental-impact statement rids itself of deferred maintenance backlog by reclassifying roads, calling them motorized trails, better known as "roads"! Can't the CNF folks understand the big picture of why their road budget money is limited? Could it be that the public no longer wants its forests to be roaded, naturally unfriendly eyesores?

In so doing, the CNF is attempting to circumvent Montana state law which will place all users of the forest into unsafe conditions with the taxpayers carrying the resulting legal burden. In the case of minors I reference the following study: atvsafetynet.org/news.php?page=pr. In addition, CNF also violates the direction given by three presidential orders, E.G. 11644 signed by President Nixon in 1972 and modified by President Carter's E.G. 11989 in 1977, plus the recent E.G. 07-0817 signed by President Bush.

Also, the National Environmental Policy Act and several other National Forest directives and studies have been subverted. I say to the CNF: Don't go down that road!

The Pryor Mountains Coalition (www.pryormountains.org) has presented a well thought out solution, which keeps in place a more than adequate road system for access and enjoyment by all Pryors users. Together, we can avert this coming train wreck by appeasing Mother Nature into a sustainable future.

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