

- Use of volunteers to help identify existing routes must be encouraged. No closures of routes identified by volunteers should be allowed without full analysis and public participation, or the volunteers will lose trust in the agency.

In closing, the agency must understand that our support is hinged upon the process as it has been laid out to us, which is similar to the Montana, North & South Dakota plan. We must tell you that we are **VERY DISCOURAGED** with the way that plan is actually being implemented by some Forests. That plan mirrors our desired process, but some forests are proposing to close **ALL** non-system routes as they implement the plan at the local or forest level. Additionally, some other Forests around the country are already attempting to do wholesale closures, based upon their interpretation of comments made by Chief Bosworth. We need **STRONG** assurances that these violations of the tri state plan, and these misinterpretations of the Chief's comments will be promptly rectified, or we will not be able to support the initiative.

We look forward to seeing the actual language of the initiative, as well as seeing clear indicators that our concerns with already ongoing processes are being seriously addressed.

Respectfully,



Bill Dart,
Executive Director