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A friend gave me a link to this article in the Clayton news and I had to laugh about it when I read it. Tax dollars going to good use or opening up a much bigger can of worms? As an avid fisherman, hiker, climber, camper and boater, not allowing human powered craft on a Wild & Scenic River is beyond crazy. What is the reasoning behind that? The only thing I could think of was jealousy of those landing bigger fish from a boat by being able to cover more area than wading. What is the difference between a float tube & canoe in defining of a craft? What other W&S Rivers in this country outlaw boating? I may be wrong but I can think of none. I trout fish a good bit and usually catch the biggest fish from areas that are only accessible w/ tubes & boats, or off the beaten path. I have visited a lot of National Forests all over this country to fish, boat, camp, climb, hike, ect. I would say that O.R.V.'ers, horse packers, fisherman & campers do more damage to an area than other user groups such as hikers, climbers, bikers and boaters. The "human powered" users tend to care more and want to protect that resource than to trash it. At least the ones I have come across. The destruction of an area I think is mainly due to the laziness of those other types of users and not having to earn/sweat to gain access to a pristine area. If they can get a vehicle/pack animal to carry their supplies for them, they bring everything including the kitchen sink. They generally leave it all behind when they are done w/ it. As I recall you can drive trucks into the river at certain points long the river. How is that Wild & Scenic? The last time I was up that way fishing, there were campsites all along the river at Bull Pen Bridge. The place was totally trashed. There were fire pits, trash, batteries, beer cans, fish entrails, broken cane poles, wads of monofilament line and human waste all in the middle of the trail for about 1.5 miles. I filled up the only two trash bags I had in my truck w/ garbage and hauled it out that day. The live Rhododendron all along the trail was hacked up for firewood. Why would anyone who cares about an area do this? Since boating is not allowed, I would think it would be safe to say that it was not them. It was really sad and made me think about what uneducated people could be permitted to do something like that. Americans should have equal rights, granted equal "human powered" access to an area, or none at all, across the board. There are no natural places up there that have not been touched by man at one time or the other anyway. Come to think of it the fish we catch up there are not even native to this part of the country. Rainbow trout are only found in the Pacific N.W. How did they get there in the river & why if it is supposed to be "wild"? If people really wanted it wild they would catch no fish there, as Brookies are few & far between if even existent in the river anymore. The competition w/ Rainbows surely does not help their situation. It is basically an environment that has been modified for

mans enjoyment and to me that does not sound very natural. The whole situation/ study is a blatant political waste of taxpayer monies to something w/ such a simple solution. Only catering to one influential user group is typical political garbage which we see so much if in today's world. If the Forest Service would spend some of this money on maintaining what they have instead of wasting it on studies which step around the real issue and create non-existent conflicts. We all would be in a better world. The fact that you are limiting one group and not the others in a certain area is not right and I am sure will probably be met w/ much resistance once the word of this gets out to other parts of the country. To me this sound illegal, but I am not a lawyer. The fact that no-one in charge up there can see this makes us look like ignorant rednecks to other people in this country is sad. But like the old adage says "If it looks, walks & sound like a duck, its a duck". Either let people enjoy it in a low impact way of their choosing or keep everyone out and let it actually become wild.

The summarization of this rant is that I am in favor of allowing boating on that stretch of the river w/ equal restrictions for all. You never know, you just might need their help on day when your waders fill full of water and the current drags you under.

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