

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 13, 2019

The Honorable Vicki Christiansen
Chief
Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Chief Christiansen:

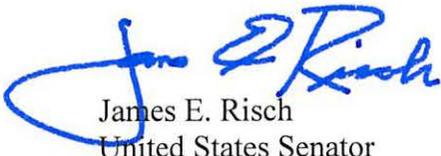
We write to you to raise concern about an issue you are familiar with, the management of Recommended Wilderness Areas in Forest Service Region 1. Recommended Wilderness Areas, those designated by the Forest Service, and not Congress as provided for in the Wilderness Act, are being managed as Wilderness. This management is unique to Region 1 and not the policy of the Forest Service nationally.

By managing in this way, they are restricting access to motorized, mechanized recreation. This land is intended to be accessible to the public and only managed so that its characteristics are not compromised. Our state has a history of public, collaborative processes with local communities that have resulted in various land management decisions, including formal Wilderness designations and release of Wilderness Study Areas by virtue of Congressional action. Congress alone has the ability to designate Wilderness. It is meant to have public process and input, not be determined administratively.

We request that Region 1 follow the same policy that the rest of the Forest Service does in regard to Recommended Wilderness Areas and revert back all historic uses that do not compromise the ability for potential designation by Congress. Ending the policy is important, but equally important, is restoring the motorized and mechanized uses that were eliminated because of the Region 1 Policy.

As you work to resolve this problem, please keep us apprised of updates. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress