

Wilderness Management Review Selway Bitterroot Wilderness

Submitted by: C P

Date: 8/18

Report Title: White Cap Creek Trail Head Parking

Summary:

Returned to White Cap Creek Trail Head parking area with a group of trail volunteers to find notes on everyone's windshields from a local outfitter (Storm Creek) informing us that the parking area at the trailhead was reserved for the exclusive use of outfitter employees and their clients and that public parking was ½ mile back down the road.

Wilderness or Wild River: Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

Management Unit: Bitterroot National forest

Administrative Location: Hamilton, MT

Head of Administrative Unit: Julie King, Forest Supervisor

Contact and Agency Response: please grade the agency's response with an A to F letter grade. Comments must support letter grades in each category.

A Responsiveness; how long did it take the agency to respond to your inquiry?

Forest Staff responded to e-mail inquiry within a couple days ...

B Completeness; was your question fully answered?

Forest staff explained Forest's intent to have large volunteer groups park away from the trailhead, but did not fully explain how/why the Outfitter acquired impression they had exclusive parking at the trailhead or why they were directly communicating that impression to the public.

In response to my email inquiry I received the following response."

"..... no it is not his private parking area. For larger volunteer groups when we may have a number of vehicles we do ask they park down by Paradise but for the individual hiker that might be going up Whitecap they are more than welcome to park there. I will be seeing the outfitter this week and visit with him and that he needs to remover the sign. I had a coipe"

___ Stewardship; are management actions in accord with wilderness values and best practices in wilderness management?

___ Wilderness; how well is management protecting the wilderness resource?