

NAME: Bruce Erickson



FAMILY: Me, my wonderful wife of more than three decades Lori, and our son Matthew.

EMPLOYMENT: Silviculturist with the USDA Forest Service

A BIT OF LIFE HISTORY: Born and raised on a farm in Iowa. Introduced to wheeling by my grandfather, who took us on several trips to explore Colorado back roads in his Blazer and Suburban in the 1970s. Got a job and met my California wife in Red River, Idaho. Followed our jobs to Frenchtown, Montana in 1988 and have been here ever since.

4X4 VEHICLES YOU OWN: Currently own a 2002 Jeep TJ Wrangler and a 2008 Chevy Colorado. Formerly owned a 1976 Jeep CJ-7, 1978 Ford F150, 1987 and Mitsubishi Montero two-doors, 1990 Chevy K1500, and a 1992 Jeep Wrangler YJ plus several cars and two-wheel-drive pickups.

MODIFICATIONS DONE TO YOUR PRESENT RIDE: My TJ Sahara is a daily driver built for moderate trails. 2.5 inch Rough Country springs with Rubicon Express monotube shocks and bumpstop extensions. Poison Spyder hood louvers. Banks air intake. Bestop Trektop in the summer and factory hardtop in the winter. Warn M8000 winch with synthetic rope. Smittybilt bolt-in sport cage, 33-inch General Grabber AT2 tires on factory alloy wheels with 1.5 inch spacers, Bestop oversize spare tire carrier. Armor includes front diff, front lower control arms, and oil pan skid plates.

FAVORITE VEHICLE OF ALL TIME: Gotta be early Ford Broncos or IH Scouts. They were built from sturdy components and engineered to work, not for comfort.

IF MONEY WAS NOT AN OBJECT, WHAT WOULD YOU DRIVE OFF ROAD? One of my fleet of indestructible, ultimately dependable, over-powered, air-conditioned, fuel-sipping trucks and SUVs.

SAME QUESTION BUT ON ROAD? Tesla

FAVORITE TRAIL OR TRAILS: I've had a lot of fun in Colorado and Utah, but I think my favorites for remoteness, lack of crowds, and scenery are the Magruder Corridor and Buffalo Hump in Idaho.

TRAIL OR AREA THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO RUN SOME TIME REALISTICALLY: So many places, so little time. Still have lots to see in Montana, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah.

SAME QUESTION BUT UN-REALISTIC: English-speaking Southern Hemisphere – it's all dirt roads, elephants, kangaroos, guinea pigs, and drinks with little umbrellas.

FAVORITE TYPE OF FOUR WHEELING: The kind that demands attention but doesn't break anything. Must have beautiful scenery, too.

LEAST FAVORITE TYPE OF FOUR WHEELING: Deep mud. Crashing of metal on rock. Snapping of overstressed metal.

WHAT OTHER THINGS DO YOU LIKE TO DO: I like reading, watching movies, hunting, ice fishing, real fishing, hiking.

FUTURE GOALS IN LIFE? Retire relatively healthy so I can enjoy new pursuits.

IF YOU COULD BE ANYTHING IN LIFE, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU HAVE? Always thought it would be fun to teach math or science in high school.