

Category:    Developed and Dispersed Recreation
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**PC # 4004****Public Concern: The Bitterroot NF should not expand Lost Trail Ski Area.****Sample Statement:**

Expand Lost Trail? Are you kidding? I have talked to the owners personally, and they are not interested in any more expansion of hours, a summer season or terrain. Is the Federal Government going to pay them to do this? It sure sounds like it from the articles I read today, because they sure are not. It is an old ski area, with a dilapidated lodge and chairlift system that constantly breaks down. If you are thinking Lost Trail Powder Mountain is the kind of place that will attract a national crowd, maybe you should try to ski there some weekend when the lift lines are 20-30 minutes for 800 vertical feet of skiing. (3987.1)

**Sample Statement:**

I would request that the language indicating that there is sufficient ski capacity in the Bitterroot Forest at Lost Trail be removed from the plan. (5587.1)

**PC # 4006****Public Concern: The Bitterroot NF should prohibit dogs at Lost Horse and Twin Lakes.****Sample Statement:**

Having camped at many of the mountain lakes we have discovered that as soon as a dog arrives the game and wild animals are gone. We would propose to you that you have several areas where leashes are required and it would be wonderful if there were a few areas where dogs are not allowed. We would as you to consider having an area like the Lost Horse and Twin Lakes off limits for dogs. (4294.2)

**PC # 4011****Public Concern: The FS should specifically identify and address river recreation in Developed and Dispersed Recreation section of the Plan. (ss 5244.1 under pc 330)****Sample Statement:**

After reviewing the "Developed and Dispersed Recreation" portions of the chapters in your proposed plan, it generally appears that these sections mostly address land-based recreation. We would like to suggest that "River Recreation" be specifically identified and addressed in the "Developed and Dispersed Recreation" sections throughout the Plan. We realize there are not many rivers within the jurisdiction of the Bitterroot and Lolo National Forests to which this might apply, but those that do exist are very important (i.e., Clearwater River, Rock Creek, West Fork of the Bitterroot, middle Clark Fork, etc.). (5244.5)

**PC # 4012****Public Concern: The FS should use ROS to makes site-specific land-use allocation.****Sample Statement:**

Blue Ribbon Coalition (BRC) recommends using ROS as an inventory with which to make site specific land use allocations in activity level planning projects. We do not recommend and oppose using it as a standard. If ROS is to be used as a desired future condition, then the public must be informed of how its use may affect future planning project. (5366.4)

**PC # 4014**

**Public Concern: The Bitterroot NF should prohibit permanent reference marks in climbing areas.**

**Sample Statement:**

With respect to guidelines, we concur with the guideline under developed and dispersed recreation that calls for no new permanent reference marks or climbing aids. These aids represent permanent installations or structures and are prohibited by the Wilderness Act and Forest Service regulations. (4981.18)

**PC # 4015**

**Public Concern: The Bitterroot NF should include motorized use as a recognized form of recreation (in the introduction section) and that the aging population will increase motorized use.**

**Sample Statement:**

Changes and Trends; Demographic Changes: p.13: The general aging of the population has prompted many citizens to turn to the use of OHV's as a means of accessing the forest. (4986.3)

**PC # 4016**

**Public Concern: The FS should remove the desired condition "minimize conflict between different user groups".**

**Sample Statement:**

When did it become the mission of the Forest Service to insure that "minimizing conflict between different user groups..." [P. 34, Background, middle of top paragraph] to the point that the existence of "conflict" can trump offering a wide spectrum of uses? Conflict between user groups has already resulted in a huge shortage of motorized recreation opportunities. Conflict of user groups should be deleted. (5788.29)

**PC # 4017**

**Public Concern: The Bitterroot NF should not charge fees to keep developed sites open.**

**Sample Statement:**

[On BNF Proposed Plan] Page 73: "In some cases we may charge use fees in order to keep developed sites open" FOB objects to user fees in most cases. Fee use areas/trails/sites begin to commercialize free and open public domain. This limits the use of the public domain to those who can and will pay for access. We all own the public domain, not the Forest Service or a concessionaire. (4990.32)

**PC # 4018**

**Public Concern: The Flathead NF should allow current historical institutional Outfitter Guide use in Jewel Basin.**

**Sample Statement:**

Jewel Basin, I would like to simply make my voice known over the proposal for continued allowance of historical institutional groups in this wilderness area. I heartily support the entrance of institutional groups into the Jewel Basin. The benefit to our youth - as well as us adults - is immeasurable. (4396.1)

**Sample Statement:**

I support the statements of page 46 of the Flathead National Forest Plan that will include historic institutional outfitter use in the Jewel Basin in the future. I strongly support giving institutional outfitters special use permits for the Jewel Basin. I would add the word "current" to the language on page 46, describing the historic institutional outfitters: "Current historic institutional outfitting and guiding "would be authorized in the future". (5056.1)

**PC # 4019**

**Public Concern: The Flathead NF should improve access at Abbott Creek.**

**Sample Statement:**

Has the Proposed Land Management Plan identified the right geographic area desired conditions? I think in some areas around Hungry Horse Reservoir they could be enlarged so that necessary improvements can be made in areas like Abbot Creek access. (4484.1)

**PC # 4020**

**Public Concern: The Flathead NF should allow unused "traditional" service days be used for non-traditional summer uses.**

**Sample Statement:**

We have been trying to get additional hiking and backpacking user days for summer use through the Forest Service in the Great Bear/Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and other lands on the Flathead National Forest since 1983. We have been continually told that even though this type of use would be a good fit we must wait for a Forest Plan Revision before any new types of outfitting may occur due to the moratorium. The Proposed Plan doesn't include any language to address this issue. It is our understanding that all of the allotted user days for "traditional use" are currently not being used. We propose that you allow the unused days be used for "non-traditional uses" such as backpacking and hiking in the summer months of May through September. We feel this is a needed service for a current demand. Many people contact us requesting trips in this area and currently there is only one trip a year that we are aware of, leaving no other options for backpacking or hiking with a guide service. If they want to see these lands they must use a horse outfitter. Opening the unused user days up for new recreational uses that are similar by nature yet lower in impact than the "traditional" horse use would seem to be a logical fit to be included in this plan. (4901.1)

**PC # 4024**

**Public Concern: The FS should increase developed and dispersed recreation opportunities, especially in non-wilderness settings.**

**Sample Statement:**

I've heard it from personnel in the forest over the last several years that even as the timber program died that the recreational opportunities on the forest would be promoted. This plan doesn't seem to do that, with the exception of the area around Hungry Horse, any effort to accommodate the express public desires regarding recreation. (4325.87)

**Sample Statement:**

We are concerned that there is no plan to increase developed and dispersed recreation opportunities especially in a non wilderness setting. Your plan recognizes the population growth of the Flathead valley, however it seems to ignore the demographics of the population! Demographic research included in the draft Flathead Country Growth policy clearly shows that our population is becoming older and more affluent. Therefore it is reasonable to expect that there will be a greater increase in demand for motorized and developed recreational opportunities rather than for wilderness type recreation. Short loop hikes, opportunities for scenic loop drives, access to developed campgrounds, day use areas and outfitted wilderness experiences will be the greatest areas of demand. It is important that the desired future condition assess and plan for this type of growth. (4768.5)

**Sample Statement:**

We are extremely concerned that there is no plan to increase developed and dispersed recreation opportunities especially in a non-wilderness setting. Studies have shown that nearly 90% of recreational use of the national forest takes place in the roaded and developed areas. You can not continue to deal with this problem by ignoring it! (5063.6)

**PC # 4026**

**Public Concern: The FS should provide more opportunities for short loop trails, scenic loop drives, developed campgrounds and day use areas.**

**Sample Statement:**

I would like to address the need for an increase in day use areas for working people in the Missoula area. The Blue Mountain Recreation area offers a wonderful diversity of recreation. The motorcycle trails are some of the finest that I have ridden. They offer a wide range of riding skill levels and have been modified for minimal impact. The problem I feel is that they are the only motorcycle trails in the Missoula vicinity. If I wanted to hike or ride a bicycle, I would have all sorts of choices. I suggest that you increase the Blue Mountain trails to Petty Mountain and Deep Creek area. I am against the MA 2.2A designation of the Petty Mountain area and I feel it should be changed to a multiple use designation. The Gold Creek area on the Blackfoot also has some trails that could be nice riding. (5102.1)

**Sample Statement:**

Short loop hikes, opportunities for scenic loop drives, access to developed campgrounds, day use areas, and outfitted wilderness experiences will be the greatest areas of demand. It is important that the desired future condition assess and plan for this type of growth. (5063.7)

**PC # 4027**

**Public Concern: The FS should not exclude extreme recreation opportunities.**

**Sample Statement:**

Forest-Wide Desired Conditions pp. 33-34 Par. "g": It is inappropriate to specifically exclude any user class from pulic lands!! "Extreme" is a subjective judgment and any "extreme" activity should be individually evaluated based on need, benefit and impact. This paragraph should be deleted altogether. (5129.4)

**PC # 4028**

**Public Concern: The Bitterroot NF should maintain the desired condition regarding additional downhill ski opportunities would be provided only through limited expansion of Lost Trail Powder Mnt Ski area within MA 6.1.**

**Sample Statement:**

As stated in the Proposed Bitterroot National Forest Land Management Plan for desired conditions, I agree that "additional downhill ski opportunities would be provided only through limited expansion of Lost Trail Powder Mountain Ski Area within Management Area 6.1." (5167.2)

**PC # 4031**

**Public Concern: The Flathead NF should re-write the DC: Large areas of designated wilderness and backcountry would offer primitive settings and experiences while non-wilderness areas of the forest would provide opportunities responsive to public needs as supportive by monitoring data, demographic, ecological, economic and social assessments.**

**Sample Statement:**

Rewrite P. 34, DC (a) as: "Large areas of designated wilderness and backcountry would offer primitive settings and experiences, while non-wilderness areas of the forest would provide opportunities responsive to public needs as supported by monitoring data, demographic, ecological, economical and social assessments. (5788.30)

**PC # 4037**

**Public Concern: The Lolo NF should re-write Rec DC g to clarify the meaning.**

**Sample Statement:**

BRC is concerned about condition "g" on the Lolo NF. It reads: "There would be a mix between more primitive, less developed facilities and areas where more developed recreation and motorized travel are suitable." The phrase "? where more developed and motorized travel are suitable" concerns us because it appears that it might limit motorized routes to the "roaded natural" setting. The semi-primitive motorized ROS class is extremely important and popular with the motorize recreation community and it seems that motorized trails might be limited to developed areas with this language. (5366.8)

**Sample Statement:**

Chapter 1: Vision Forest-Wide Desired Conditions, [LNF] Page 33, g and e: Mixing developed recreation such as ORV use, with primitive recreation such as backpacking or horse use, creates conflict between users and ultimately leads to a loss of traditional recreation opportunities. We ask the Planning Team to re-define this goal, to ensure that these very different and totally incompatible forms of recreation Do Not mix. (4989.25)

**PC # 4039**

**Public Concern: The Lolo NF should maintain the DC to limit commercial outfitter guide use in the Great Burn.**

**Sample Statement:**

Middle Clark Fork GA Desired Future Condition - Recreation. We support the proposal to limit commercial outfitter guide permits in the recommended Great Burn wilderness to the 2005 levels with no new opportunities for commercial use without a capacity analysis. (5362.3)

**PC # 4040**

**Public Concern: The Lolo NF should change Recreation Desired Condition [item] i. so that it does not suggest city, county and state lands are the desired place for extreme sports.**

**Sample Statement:**

While we understand the intent of this desired condition [Inf Ch. 1, Pg. 33, Item i], the suggestion that non-federal lands (city, county, state) are the desired place for extreme sports or activities that cause high resource impacts is not appropriate. The intent of this desired condition can be met by incorporating language similar to that in the Bitterroot NF proposed plan (e.g., extreme recreation opportunities such as . . . and other high impact activities would not be provided on Lolo National Forest lands.) (5792.61)

**PC # 4041**

**Public Concern: The Lolo NF should emphasize Leave No Trace for all recreation users and not just outfitters and guides.**

**Sample Statement:**

Not only should outfitter-guides be available to assist visitors [LNF Pg. 34], they should be regarded as partners by the Forest Service to interpret the natural resources and explain management actions (5801.7)

**PC # 4042**

**Public Concern: The FS should add the following standard: Locate campgrounds facilities and concentrate public recreation use areas away from ecologically sensitive areas and locate in areas that are more resilient and can more easily recover from impacts and/or accommodate public use with less impacts.**

**Sample Statement:**

We encourage locating campground facilities, and concentrated public recreational uses away from ecologically sensitive resources, and identifying and designating camping sites to avoid sensitive areas and/or to encourage camping or concentrated public use in areas that are more resilient and can more easily recover from impacts and/or accommodate public use with less impacts. It does not appear that this concept is incorporated into the proposed program emphasis discussion on pages 73 and 74. We recommend consideration of an item #4 on page 74 as follows: 4) "Locating campground facilities and concentrated public recreational use areas away from ecologically sensitive areas and located in areas that are more resilient and can more easily recover from impacts and/or accommodate public use with less impacts". (4664.33)

**PC # 4043**

**Public Concern: The FS should add the following standard: "Designing, constructing and operating recreational facilities, including trails and dispersed sites, in a manner that does not retard or prevent attainment of the DCs for soils, watersheds and aquatic ecosystem and avoids adverse effects on Inland native fish and aquatic species of concern."**

**Sample Statement:**

We also support proper design of recreation facilities, and elimination of activities or occupancy that adversely affect achievement of soils, watersheds, and aquatic ecosystems desired conditions when measures to protect such areas are not effective. For example also including items #5 and #6 on page 74 as follows: 5) "Designing, constructing and operating recreation facilities, including trails and dispersed sites, in a manner that does not retard or prevent attainment of the desired conditions for soils, watersheds, and aquatic ecosystems desired conditions, and avoids adverse effects on inland native fish and aquatic species of concern." 6) "Eliminating the practice or occupancy where adjustment measures such as education, use limitations, traffic control devices, increased maintenance, relocation of facilities, and/or specific site closures are not effective in meeting desired conditions for soils, watersheds, and aquatic ecosystems and avoiding adverse effects on inland native fish and aquatic species of concern." (Note: These recommendations are based on standards included in the Beaverhead- Deerlodge NF draft Forest Plan Aquatic Strategy.) (4664.34)

**PC # 4045**

**Public Concern: The FS should manage gated roads for non-motorized recreation opportunities such as mountain biking and nordic skiing.**

**Sample Statement:**

I am supportive of managing gated forest roads for non-motorized recreation year-long, mountain biking in summer and skiing in winter. I did not have time to specifically review the forest travel plan and see how well it meshed with this plan. I would like to see the gate closed on Lee Creek Road at the first major snowfall (at least 1 foot of snow). Eliminating a week or so of driving in favor of an entire winter of cross-country skiing makes sense to me. (5242.7)

**PC # 4046**

**Public Concern: The FS should include an objective to develop a management plan for any designated eligible wild and scenic river.**

**Sample Statement:**

Table 12 (page 102) in the proposed [FNF] Plan identifies potential river segments eligible for Wild & Scenic River designation. Of these twelve river/creek segments we believe the ?? River have particular merit for designation. We also recommend consideration of including a Wild & Scenic Rivers Objective to develop a management plan for any designated eligible Wild and Scenic River. (4665.49)

**PC # 4047**

**Public Concern: The FNF should include an objective to increase recreation opportunities (dispersed and developed)**

**Sample Statement:**

Based on current and projected future demand, we feel there should be an objective to increase recreation opportunities. (4768.10)

**Sample Statement:**

The Flathead National Forest is the gem of the Flathead Valley and it is one of the primary reasons we love to live where we are. Most people love this forest because it is a working forest with developed and primitive recreation opportunities alike to meet everyone's needs. Despite population growth across northwest Montana, there are no objectives in the Forest Plan to increase the number of dispersed campsites. The plan discusses closing campsites with too much impact, equating users, and modifying conditions, however there is no mention of adding additional sites or increasing the number of motorized use trails to meet the growing demand from the public. Was this an oversight? There is no doubt in our minds that it was an issue during the planning process. (4985.6)

**PC # 4051**

**Public Concern: The Bitterroot NF should make the following changes in the proposed plan pertaining to management of trail 313:**

- change the MA designation around trail 309 and the entire trail 313 to MA 2.2a.
- begin non-motorized use of Trail 313 at the trailheads near Sawmill Saddle and Skalkaho Pass.
- expand off highway vehicle opportunities along trail 313/Sapphire crest.
- get all three (3) Forests (Bitterroot, Lolo, and Beaverhead Deerlodge) to classify trail 313 the same.
- facilitate discussion between RCORUA and the Kootenai-Salish concerning trail 313 between trail 39 and Abundance Saddle.
- should not make any decision on Trail 313 and the reference in the Forest Plan should be removed.

**Sample Statement:**

The portion of 313 between Trail-39 and Abundance Saddle is an Indian Heritage issue and may be resolved by talks between Ravalli County Off Road Users Association and the Kootenai-Salish. This area is also the subject of a pending lawsuit with MWA. To close this trail as part of this Plan is to anticipate negative outcomes of negotiations and lawsuits and precludes the possible resolution of these issues. (5129.9)

**Sample Statement:**

This area (trail 313) is also the subject of a pending lawsuit with MWA. To close this trail as part of this Plan is to anticipate negative outcomes of negotiations and lawsuits; and precludes the possible resolution of these issues. We most strenuously object to this closure being part of this plan on the basis that these issues are currently being negotiated and/or litigated by affected parties and also on the basis that trail-specific decisions are not supposed to be part of this Plan. The reference to Tr-313 on p.51 should be removed. (4986.10)

**Sample Statement:**

The portion of 313 between Tr-39 and Abundance Saddle is an Indian heritage issue and may be resolved by talks between RCORUA and the Kootenai-Salish. (4986.9)

**Sample Statement:**

It would be appropriate to clarify the management of Trail 313 between the Lolo, Beaverhead/Deerlodge and Bitterroot National Forests. Trail 313 north of Sawmill Saddle bounces back and forth across the Forest boundary and has resulted in confusing and sometimes conflicting classification of the trail. We believe that this Plan presents an opportunity to assign management responsibility for this trail to one Forest or the other or to at least get all three (3) Forests to classify this trail the same. (5129.10)

**Sample Statement:**

The Sapphire Crest Trail 313 should also be closed entirely to motorized traffic, as well as Burdette, Sheep Mountain and all other MA11 areas. Also, please do not allow motorized use in the Petty MT IRA!!! (4061.4)

**Sample Statement:**

Trail 313, Stony Point, Lost Horse drainage, Bald Top, Two Bear and Blue Joint areas should be open to single and 2 track motorized access. (5011.3)

**PC # 4057**

**Public Concern: The Lolo NF should change the MA designation of the following areas that are currently MA 1.2 to MA 2.2: Great Burn, Monture Creek, and Stony Mountain. (see ss 4766.2 under pc 4058)**

**Sample Statement:**

Please allow continued bicycle access in proposed Recommended Wilderness areas of the Bitterroot, Flathead and Lolo National Forests. Bicycles will be banned from more than 400 miles of trail in many cherished riding areas when they become Recommended Wilderness. I was born and raised in Montana and I support the conservation of Montana's roadless areas from development. I believe that Recommending Wilderness will ban myself and other cyclist from the places we love to ride, one of the reasons I have returned to the Big Sky. I recommend using the Forest Service's "2.2 Backcountry Area" prescription (taken from a friend's recommendation) to protect natural resources and allow continued bicycle use in the following areas. (1) Great Burn (Lolo) (2) Monture Creek (Lolo) (3) Quigg (Lolo) (4) Stony Mountain (Bitterroot and Lolo) (5) In the Blodgett Canyon (Bitterroot) and Blue Joint (Bitterroot) areas it should at least be used to create corridors containing trails #19, 137, 303, 614 and 627. Thank you for considering my comments. Please continue to allow bicycles in areas that will become Recommended Wilderness or adopt the Backcountry Area prescription for the lands we ride. (4206.1)

**PC # 4059**

**Public Concern: The Flathead NF should not recommend Jewel Basin as a Natural Recreation Area.**

**Sample Statement:**

[The] Task Force voiced concern about the recommendation for designating Jewel Basin a national recreation area [FNF P 105]. The designation is perceived likely to increase advertising and use of the area, adding additional pressure on the already high use. More traffic, parking problems, social conflicts, and environmental damage from overuse would likely result. Task Force recommends that the first Desired Condition bullet proposing that Jewel Basin be designated a national recreation area under be dropped. Approved 10-0 (4979.29)

**Sample Statement:**

MFMU is concerned about the recommendation for designating Jewel Basin a national recreation area [P. 105]. The designation will likely to increase advertising and use of the area, adding additional pressure on the already high and increasing use. More traffic, parking problems, social conflicts, and environmental damage from overuse would likely result. MFMU recommends that the first Desired Condition bullet proposing that Jewel Basin be designated a national recreation area under be dropped. (4933.42)

**Sample Statement:**

Concern is about the recommendation for designating Jewel Basin a national recreation area [P. 105]. The designation will likely to increase advertising and use of the area, adding additional pressure on the already high use. More traffic, parking problems, social conflicts, and environmental damage from overuse would likely result. The first Desired Condition proposing that Jewel Basin be designated a national recreation area should be dropped. (5788.54)

**PC # 4060**

**Public Concern: The FS should address recreational opportunities in the residential and Forest Intermix MA 5.2.**

**Sample Statement:**

I am opposed to all wild and scenic waterway designations out side of designated wilderness areas. These are confusing designations that will make law enforcement and management of these areas impossible. (5004.2)

**Sample Statement:**

No 2.1 wild and Scenic Rivers outside of designated Wilderness areas. This "feel good" designation will only lead to more expense, conflict, and litigation while accomplishing nothing for the rivers. (5586.4)

**Sample Statement:**

I am also opposed to all wild and scenic waterway designations out side of designated wilderness areas. These are confusing designations that will make law enforcement and management of these areas impossible. I would support the backcountry designation of these areas be allowed. Otherwise these areas should be changed to 3.3 or 4.1 designations. (5107.3)

**PC # 4062**

**Public Concern: The FS should make all areas within semi-primitive non-motorized prohibited to motorized use.**

**Sample Statement:**

The Bitterroot Forest uses the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) system to provide a recreational use spectrum and classification of forest lands. One of the classifications is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, but it actually does not really mean "non-motorized", because the Plan also states that, "motorized travel is generally not permitted. Special cases may apply to some areas where a motorized route passes through". (proposed Plan at p.132-133) We request that the Forest Planners change this in the final Plan so that the "Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized" classification actually means what it says; non-motorized. (4989.92)

**PC # 4063**

**Public Concern: The Bitterroot NF should change the MA designation of the Coyote Coulee Rec area and east of FS Rd 5621 (between Lake Como and Lost Horse Creek) to be MA 6.1**

**Sample Statement:**

On page 44, figure 4 (map) it shows the area between Lake Como and Lost Horse Creek above Lick Creek to be MA 5.1. I feel that Coyote Coulee Recreation Area as well as the area east of FS Road 5621 between Lake Como and Lost Horse Creek be designated MA 6.1. (5043.7)

**PC # 4067**

**Public Concern: The Flathead NF should make Flower Point to Canyon Creek drainage on Big Mountain as 6.1.**

**Sample Statement:**

My request is that there's a logical area on the Big Mountain that should be considered for 6.1, and that's the area off of Flower Point going down toward the Canyon Creek Drainage. It's an area that's skied now by people who hike from the T-bar 2 area. In our plan we have a lift that's been approved, chair 8, that goes up to Flower Point. At the time that lift is developed, that will intensify the uses down that backside which are currently underdeveloped. We anticipate that that will create some management issues that we need to be prepared to address when that lift goes in, and we probably cannot address them appropriately without the 6.1 designation because people will be skiing down into that basin, down to the Canyon Creek area which is a heavily-used snowmobile area. And the only way out of that is to hike back up the snowmobile road which probably is not going to be the ideal solution if any number of people go back in that direction. Plus, we're going to have a need to do some snow control and first aid work down in that area as the use intensifies. Now, this is not something we anticipate in the next year or two but in the near future. I think that that's only appropriate that we look at the designation in that area that allows for the optimization of a use that's already there and request that 6.1 designation be placed on that small additional piece adjacent to our current boundary. (4325.99)

**PC # 4069**

**Public Concern: The Flathead NF should remove Trail Creek, Yakinikak, Nokio, Lebeau, Logan and Aeneas Creek from WSR 2.1 designations as they are not what Congress intended with the WSR Act.**

**Sample Statement:**

The MA map needs corrections to show MA 2.1A (recommended as eligible) and correct the Plan to clearly describe management applicable to eligible 2.1A segments as separate from designated segments. [FNF P. 101-102, Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers (WSR). MFMU believes the non-wilderness creek segments listed as eligible for classification do not have any "outstandingly remarkable" attributes that distinguish these creeks from most of the other similar creeks within the Forest and the Region. The listed streams are typical headwater mountain streams found in the Northern Rocky Mountains. These typical mountain streams are not what Congress intended to qualify for WSR classification, and these recommendations are not justified. Yakinikak, Trail, Nokio, Lebeau, Logan, and Aeneas Creek should be dropped from the eligibility list. (4933.36)

**PC # 4070**

**Public Concern: The Lolo NF should not allow snowmobile use at Baldy Mnt., Blossom Lakes, McCabe Creek, Lake Otatsy, and Nome Point and Elsin Lake IRAs because of denning habitat for grizzly bears.**

**Sample Statement:**

Please keep the following areas closed to snowmobiles: Nome Point in Swans Lake Otatsy McCabe Creek Spread Mt. Blossom Lakes Baldy Mt. (4358.6)

**Sample Statement:**

The Lolo Plan allows for OHV use on trail numbers 8, 718, 719, and 720 on Petty Mountain. Please reconsider this decision and keep Petty Mountain non-motorized, as the current plan endeavors ensure. Similarly, Cherry Peak is currently managed as non-motorized; the proposed plan allows snowmobile use throughout, in addition to opening large areas to OHV use and logging. Snowmobile use is also extended to Baldy Mountain, Blossom Lakes, McCabe Creek, Lake Otatsy, and Nome Point. This is ridiculous. Please do not open these areas to snowmobile or other OHV use, and please keep these areas out of consideration for timber production. (4103.3)

**Sample Statement:**

Seeley Geographic Area: The Nome Point and Elsin Lake IRAs would be lost to winter motorized use through this revision. Rather than adding more areas where motorized use is allowed, the agency should be concentrating on those Desired Future Conditions outlined under Wildlife and Plant Species Diversity as these areas provide denning habitat for grizzly bears. (4989.74)

**PC # 4077**

**Public Concern: The Bitterroot NF should not make the East Fork of the Bitterroot a WSR as it could interfere with existing motorized use and camping.**

**Sample Statement:**

Do not make the East Fork of the Bitterroot River a wild and scenic river that could interfere with the motorized recreation and camping currently taking place there. (5248.2)

**PC # 4078**

**Public Concern: The Bitterroot NF should not make any tributaries to the Selway River as eligible WSR as those streams already have protection.**

**Sample Statement:**

Bitterroot NF -- I disagree with your proposal to add to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System on tributaries to the Selway River. Congress designated the Selway River an "instant" river, along with the Lochsa and Clearwater in the bill that was signed into law in 1968. A team, of which I was a member, was then designated to delineate the boundaries and write the management plan for those rivers. There is absolutely no reason to make additions of tributaries to the System. Those streams are already afforded the protection that they need. (4023.3)

**PC # 4079**

**Public Concern: The FS should maintain the following as eligible WSR: West Fork of the Bitterroot, West Fork Fish Creek, Cache Creek, NF Blackfoot, Dobrota Creek, Cooney Creek, Dry Fork of North Fork and its tributaries, and Rock Creek as it would protect fisheries and wildlife.**

**Sample Statement:**

West Fork GA (pp. 56-59) Inclusion of the West Fork of the Bitterroot as "Eligible or Suitable for Wild and Scenic Rivers" would help protect the many fisheries and wildlife values associated with this critical stream, and we support this action. (5244.22)

**Sample Statement:**

North Fork Blackfoot GA (pp. 64-66) Inclusion of the North Fork of the Blackfoot (and its tributaries as designated in the Forest Plan) as "Eligible or Suitable for Wild and Scenic Rivers" would help protect the many fisheries and wildlife values associated with this critical stream, and we support this action. (5245.23)

**Sample Statement:**

Middle Clark Fork GA (pp. 56-59). Inclusion of portions of the West Fork Fish Creek and Cache Creek in the Great Burn (Recommended Wilderness 1.2) as "Eligible or Suitable for Wild and Scenic Rivers" would help protect the many fisheries and wildlife values associated with these critical streams, and we support this action. (5245.19)

**PC # 4080**

**Public Concern: The Flathead NF should not recommend any additional rivers to the existing WSR system.**

**Sample Statement:**

Flathead NF -- I do not see the need for additions to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System on any of the forks of the Flathead. When we did the original study in the early 1970s, Congress directed us to study the North, Middle, and South Forks. That is what was done and our study recommendations were enacted verbatim through Senator Baucus (then Representative) by Congress and signed into law. (4023.1)

**PC # 4081**

**Public Concern: The FS should not propose any "wild" rivers that are outside of wilderness and are within condition class that is outside of its historic fire regime should be either scenic or recreational rivers.**

**Sample Statement:**

All proposed "wild" rivers that do not lay in a wilderness boundary and are within a condition class that lay outside of its historic fire regime should be proposed as either scenic or recreational rivers or segments. (4586.3)

**PC # 4082**

**Public Concern: The Flathead NF should not recommend Trail Ck, Lebeau Ck, Logan Ck, Skin (?) Ck, Spotted Bear below Dean Creek, or Graves Creek as eligible WSR as to allow vegetation manipulation.**

**Sample Statement:**

Inclusion of Trail Creek, LeBeau Creek, Logan Creek, Skin Creek, Spotted Bear River below Dean Creek and Graves Creek as Wild and Scenic Streams is not in the best interest of the stream or the surrounding land. The vegetation along these streams requires some type of change if the stream is to remain healthy. Fires in recent years in the North Fork have shown that vegetation is slow to recover and continued erosion and lack of wildlife habitat persists for many years. This designation will also affect multiple use management of the surrounding lands. (4757.5)

**PC # 4083**

**Public Concern:** The Flathead NF should change the following MA 2.1 eligible wild, scenic and recreational rivers descriptions to:

-- wild rivers are not suitable for any timber production. Ensure trees are not sold, cut or otherwise harvested in a designated wild river area except under emergency conditions, such as for insect and disease control, fire, natural catastrophe, disaster, public safety or under specified conditions on valid mining claims.

-- scenic and recreational rivers should be suitable for the non-commercial use of non-timber products as commercial activities would not enhance the values to which the rivers were set aside.

-- scenic and recreational rivers are generally not suitable for commercial communication sites or utility corridors.

**Sample Statement:**

2.1, wild and scenic rivers"Eligible rivers will be studied for possible inclusion in the national system. This is to meet national direction."Change to "wild rivers are not suitable for any timber production." This is to meet FSM 2354.42d- 1. Ensure trees are not sold, cut, or otherwise harvested in a designated wild river area except under emergency conditions, such as for insect or disease control, fire, natural catastrophe, disaster, public safety, or under specified conditions on valid mining claims. "Scenic and recreational rivers should be suitable for the non-commercial use of non-timber products such as boughs, Christmas trees, bear grass, morel mushrooms, etc. Commercial activities would not enhance the values to which the rivers were set aside."Scenic and recreational rives are generally not suitable for commercial communication sites or utility corridors. Again, these activities would not enhance the values to which the rivers were set aside."The draft makes a vague reference to over the snow vehicle use map in the plan set of documents. Again, in order to objectively evaluate what is referenced in the forest plan, the date and exact name of the item referenced in the plan set of documents must be included."P.102 lists rivers that are eligible for inclusion in the wild and scenic river system. Since this list represents the results of a decision process that was done for the forest plan, I think it should be clearly explained as to what this process was. Also, I think the results of the process were too restrictive. Every third order stream and larger on the forest was reviewed in consideration of potential outstanding remarkable values of recreation, fisheries, wildlife, geologic, etc A river was given 3 points if it was one of only a few this significant on the forest. A river was given 4 points if in that resource it was the most significant on the forest. [continued #9] (4913.8)

**PC # 4087**

**Public Concern:** The Flathead NF should make the following 16 rivers (listed in comments) as eligible for the WSR system as it seems too conservative to discount these creeks before they are more fully assessed.

**Sample Statement:**

I believe that the 16 creeks and rivers on Spotted Bear Ranger District that are underlined and bolded text below should be added as eligible rivers. All of the eligible rivers are then reviewed and studied to determine if they are rivers suitable to be included in the wild and scenic river system. If they are not suitable, they can be dropped from consideration at that time. It seems too conservative to discount these 16 creeks before they are more fully assessed. These creeks had multiple high 3 or 4 ratings for various resources-Spotted Bear River Wall Creek, White River, Danaher Creek, Sullivan Creek, Quintonkon Creek, Bunker Creek, Gorge Creek, Sunburst Creek, Little Salmon Creek, Big Salmon Creek, Holbrook Creek, Gordon Creek Youngs Creek, Hahn Creek, Strawberry Creek, Gateway Creek, Bowl Creek, Dolly Varden Creek, Clack Creek Those with only one 4 rating for various resources - Doctor Creek, Morrison Creek (4913.9)

**PC # 4088**

**Public Concern:** The Flathead NF should change the MA map to show 2.1a and correct the plan to clearly describe management applicable to eligible 2.1a segments as separate from designated segments.

**Sample Statement:**

The MA map needs corrections to show 2.1A (recommended as eligible) and correct the Plan FNF P. 101-102] to clearly describe management applicable to eligible 2.1A segments as separate from designated segments. Approved 9-0 (4979.25)

**PC # 4089**

**Public Concern:** The Flathead NF should remove the following from the eligible WSR list: Yakinikak, Trail, Nokio, Logan, Lebeau and Aeneas Creek.

**Sample Statement:**

The non-wilderness creek segments listed as eligible for classification [P. 102, potential WSR classifications] do not have any "outstandingly remarkable" attributes that distinguish these creeks from most of the streams that are typical headwater mountain streams found in the Northern Rocky Mountains. These typical mountain streams are not what Congress intended to qualify for WSR classification, and these recommendations are not justified. Yakinikak, Trail, Nokio, Lebeau, Logan and Aeneas Creeks should be dropped from the eligibility list. (5788.49)

**Sample Statement:**

[On FNF Plan] P. 102, drop Yakinikak, Trail, Nokio, Lebeau, Logan, and Aeneas Creek from eligibility list. Most task force members believe the FNF recommendations of these segments for classification is not justified. Approved 7-2 (4979.26)

**PC # 4090****Public Concern: The Lolo NF should make the following changes to WSR classification:**

- re-classify "wild" eligible/suitable rivers outside of designated or recommended wilderness as "scenic" rivers.
- drop the Lower Clark Fork near Paradise as eligible for WSR because of existing jet boat use.
- change the classification of the SF of Lolo Creek from "wild" to "scenic".
- include Hogback Creek, Ranch Creek, Alder Creek and Wyman Creek as eligible WSR.

**Sample Statement:**

Lower Clark Fork near Paradise - forget the wild and scenic river designation as it is a fantastic area for jet boats. (5246.3)

**Sample Statement:**

The South Fork of Lolo Creek has been found suitable and eligible for the Wild and Scenic River System (MA 2.1). The Ranch has a grazing lease in this drainage and water rights for irrigation, stockwater, and fish and wildlife and has the following comments/questions: o What is the specific designation for the South Fork of Lolo Creek? Wild River or Scenic and Recreation? If it is designated Wild River, we request that it be changed to Scenic and Recreation to protect their grazing interests. O What would the impacts be to the Ranch's existing uses if the South Fork Lolo Creek were designated a Wild and Scenic River system? o Lolo Trail Ranch does not support the designation of the South Fork of Lolo Creek for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System if existing uses are not maintained and protected. (5304.5)

**Sample Statement:**

Include the following streams in our National Wild and Scenic River System and as designated: Rock Creek, Welcome Creek, Hogback Creek, Ranch Creek, Alder Creek and Wyman Gulch. (5590.2)

**Sample Statement:**

Of the 26 rivers, 20 are being proposed as "wild"! Considering the management restrictions on wild rivers, if these rivers/segments do not lie within wilderness or proposed wilderness designation, we would strongly urge the Forest to re-classify these wild rivers as scenic. (4927.3)

**PC # 4094****Public Concern: The Flathead NF should re-evaluate the party size for the Mission Mountain wilderness.****Sample Statement:**

Mission Mountains party size of 8 persons, 8 stock seems arbitrary [FNF P. 132]. Task Force recommends the Mission Mountain party size to be re-evaluated. Approved 8-0 (4979.41)

**PC # 4095****Public Concern: The FS should include language of regarding the importance of carrying and knowing how to use bear spray.****Sample Statement:**

[On FNF Plan] Page 131 Developed and Dispersed Recreation, item a: We concur that all permits "should include food storage requirements and protection requirements for bears" and again propose you include language about the importance of carrying and knowing how to use bear spray. (5290.30)

**PC # 4096**

**Public Concern:** The Lolo NF should give corrective action over site closure when closing rec sites for resource or safety concerns.

**Sample Statement:**

The recreation section recommends closing sites when resource damage or safety concerns occur; remember that closing sites just displaces the use and the same conditions are likely to occur elsewhere. Corrective action should be given priority over site closure. (4928.9)

**PC # 4098**

**Public Concern:** The FS should not allow developed recreation activity on high-elevation lands.

**Sample Statement:**

Finally, I believe the lands immediately surrounding the area I'm proposing for wilderness and RNA should be a very-low use area - perhaps backcountry designation, serving as a protective buffer for these very special higher elevation wilderness and RNA lands. Most especially, the designated uses in the Plan for all of the higher-elevation lands (say above 6000 feet) should never include developed recreation activity of any sort. (3966.3)

**PC # 4100**

**Public Concern:** The FS should encourage rockhounding as a hobby on NFS lands but with certain restrictions identified in the forest plan.

**Sample Statement:**

As you develop and refine your Forest Management Plans, it would be appropriate to specifically include a brief statement, most likely under the Recreational Uses heading, to the following effect: Rock collecting in keeping with the hobby of rockhounding is encouraged on federal forestry lands, and shall not be curtailed in any manner when such collecting is for personal use and enjoyment, or for educational purposes. Such collecting shall be limited to the use of hand tools only to obtain representative samples or for use as raw materials for lapidary purposes, which shall not be sold commercially. Each individual may collect up to "X" amount (see discussion below) of material from any one location in any one day. Excavated spoils shall not be left on any trails or roadways, and all excavated holes shall be filled. From time to time, the Forest Service may set aside selected areas as public collecting locations, not subject to the filing of a claim for mining purposes. Commercial collecting or collecting materials in excess of the daily limit shall require a permit. I believe all federal forestry and/or grazing lands should be open to such hobby collecting. Written guidelines should place simple parameters on the scope of collecting activities that are permissible, such as restricting collectors to the use of hand tools only. If I am not mistaken, the BLM has a weight restriction of twenty pounds plus one piece for collecting petrified wood on BLM lands. It may be possible to develop a similar weight or volume guideline for hobby rock collecting on forestry lands. If a weight limit is applied, following the BLM guideline is perhaps prudent, in order to be consistent. (4195.1)

**PC # 4101**

**Public Concern: The Flathead NF should define scenic quality for foreground, middle ground and background. For MA 6.1, preservation, retention or partial retention should be met for these areas.**

**Sample Statement:**

[For] MA 6.1 high use recreation complexes or use areas: I think visual quality objectives should be defined for foreground, middle ground and background. Preservation, retention or partial retention should be met in these areas. Recreation suitability- many dispersed sites exist around the hungry horse reservoir. Most have few, if any, facilities. People can pretty much do what they want as long as they do not degrade the site. I think this component should be added to the desired condition. (4913.11)

**PC # 4102**

**Public Concern: The Bitterroot NF should have designated, non-motorized days on Como Lake.**

**Sample Statement:**

Como Lake should have "quiet non-motorized days designated for people that would rather canoe, raft, quietly fish or swim. These days could be every other weekend or even only once a month. Currently there is no easily accessed lake opportunity for "quiet users". (4917.7)

**PC # 4103**

**Public Concern: The Flathead NF should have past human activities such as timber harvest or roads be restored to a more natural appearing conditions in backcountry areas (MA 2.2). Gated, bermed or historic roads would have natural contours restored.**

**Sample Statement:**

Geographic Areas South Fork [Flathead] "In this geographic area, it should note that in backcountry areas, any past human activities such as timber harvest or roads, should be managed to allow the area to be restored to a more natural appearing condition. Any gated, bermed, or historic roads would have natural contours restored when being decommissioned where feasible. This would include but is not limited to the roads up Bunker Creek west of the Gorge Creek Trailhead. (4913.14)

**PC # 4105**

**Public Concern: The Flathead NF should inform non-motorized users on motorized trails by signing the trail that they may encounter motorized users.**

**Sample Statement:**

Educate: 1. Education [of] non motorized users via signage or trail map at trail heads regarding motorized use in the area to avoid encounters if they desire. 2. Up to date maps that mark trail systems and closures (available online?) 3. A liaison from the FS that would be available for OHV questions, comments, complaints, etc. preferable an individual who enjoys this type of recreation and is familiar with the Flathead National Forest. <http://www.treadlightly.org/trainer.mv> 4. Have groups, riding clubs & interested individuals help with, take care of, and take charge of trail maintenance and improvements. We are willing to help improve our riding areas. 5. Be aware of the diversity that exists for all FS land users. All should accept that no one group deserves more or less than another group. Learn to respect and co-exist with those that do not share the same perspective as you. Everyone will benefit. (4940.14)

**PC # 4144**

**Public Concern:** The Flathead NF should apply some of the Kootenai LMP DC to the draft LMP.

**Sample Statement:**

We were impressed with the Kootenai National Forest Desired Conditions document which can be viewed at [http://www.fs.fed.us/kipz/ga/libby/dc/final\\_libby\\_ga\\_dcs.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/kipz/ga/libby/dc/final_libby_ga_dcs.pdf) If you were to take the desired conditions statements and apply them to areas that are suitable for these uses in the Flathead National Forest it would be awesome! (4500.2)

**PC # 4305**

**Public Concern:** The Lolo NF should designate Lolo Pass (Lolo Creek Geographic Area) Sections 2, 10(T10N, R24W), and Section 35 (T11N, R24W) as 2.2a; backcountry (non-motorized). These areas are known as the Crystal Theater and the Spot. They have traditionally been used as non-motorized backcountry skiers/snowboarders; It is important that this includes signing, monitoring, and enforcement. The LNF should also make the following MA 2.2a: St. Regis Basin, Morrel Mountain, and Blind Canyon.

**Sample Statement:**

Blind Canyon (Seeley Geographic Area): Blind Canyon is also in the southern Swan Mountains. While there has only been limited use of this area by backcountry skiers/snowboarders, there is great potential for future use. Therefore, I do not support 2.1b Backcountry (motorized travel) in Blind Canyon. Recommendation: I recommend the designation of the area as 2.1a Backcountry (non-motorized). (5285.8)

**Sample Statement:**

I do not support the following proposed Management Area theme designations: Saint Regis Basin (Middle Clark Fork Geographic Area) I would like Saint Regis Basin to be changed from 6.1 High Use Recreation Complexes or Use Areas to 2.1a Backcountry (non-motorized) in the southern half of the basin and in the roadless areas. (4020.4)

**Sample Statement:**

Morrell Mountain (North Fork Blackfoot Geographic Area): This has been an area of contention between the snowmobile and backcountry ski/snowboard communities since the Revised Travel Plan was put in effect in 2002. The areas that are recommended as non-motorized are not easily accessible to skiers. Most important is the watershed to the south of Morrell Mountain (Section 26). This area provides the best skiing opportunities at a reasonable level of access. I recommend the designation of the area as 2.1a Backcountry (non-motorized). (5285.7)

**Sample Statement:**

Lolo Pass (Lolo Creek Geographic Area): With such proximity to Missoula, ample snow, and increasing use and conflict, I believe that at least a small portion of the northwest side of Lolo Pass should be set-aside for non-motorized, quiet winter backcountry use. I do not support designating Lolo Pass area as 6.1 High Use Recreation Complexes or 4.1 General Forest Moderate Intensity Management. Recommendation: I recommend that Sections 2, 10 (T10N, R24W), and , Section 35 (T11N, R24W) be designated as 2.2a Backcountry (non-motorized). These areas are known as the Crystal Theater and the Spot. They have traditionally been used as non-motorized backcountry by skiers/snowboarders; however, occasionally snowmobile use does occur. I would like to see those three sections officially designated as non-motorized. (5285.6)