

# Recreation Opportunities and Access

## Helena and Lewis & Clark National Forests, Forest Plan Revision

### Overview

The HLC NFs are home to a wide variety of recreation settings and experiences ranging from primitive to developed. The Forests also host a variety of recreation opportunities such as dispersed camping, aviation opportunities, and cabin rentals.

Recreation access through roads, trails and air strips is provided for motorized, nonmotorized, and aviation users through recent travel plans on the Forests. Special use permits provide recreation opportunities such as: recreation residences, lodges and resorts, ski areas, organizational camps, and outfitter and guide permits.

### What's Changed Since 1986?

- Advances in recreation equipment and technology have changed use patterns and resource conditions.
- There has been an increase in dispersed recreation, particularly in dispersed camping and day use.
- Infrastructure conditions for roads, trails, airstrips, and recreation facilities are declining.
- Recent travel plans have been completed for most of the two forests and additional travel plans will be completed in the near future. **Note: *Travel planning will not be considered in the HLC Forest Plan Revision.***

### What Needs to Change in the Forest Plan?

- Provide direction for sustainable recreation and trails programs.
- Include plan components to address basic infrastructure conditions and requirements for roads, trails, and recreation facilities.
- Include and strengthen direction for dispersed recreation opportunities and recreation cabin rentals.
- Consider and address new and emerging recreation trends and opportunities.
- Provide guidance and direction for the recreation special uses program.



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