

In The Matter Of:

*FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION and
NORTHERN CONTINENTAL DIVIDE GRIZZLY AMENDMENTS*

OBJECTION RESOLUTION SESSION

Vol. 1

April 11, 2018

Goodman Reporting

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Flathead National Forest Plan Revision and Northern
Continental Divide Grizzly Amendments
Objector Resolution Meetings

Held Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
April 11, 12, 13, 2018
Hilton Garden Inn, 1840 U.S. Highway 93, Kalispell, MT

- TIMBER
- JOBS AND INCOME
- RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS
- SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN
- WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT
- GRIZZLY BEAR HABITAT MANAGEMENT
- AQUATICS HABITAT MANAGEMENT
- SWAN VALLEY MANAGEMENT AREA 6c
- KRAUSE BASIN
- WINTER TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

* Denotes phonetic spelling

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8 TIMBER
9 JOBS AND INCOME
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12 A P P E A R A N C E S

13 Chip Weber: Forest Supervisor - Flathead National Forest
14 Leanne Marten: Northern Region Forester/Forest Plan
15 Reviewing Officer
16 Ginny Tribe: Facilitator
17

18 OBJECTORS AND INTERESTED PERSONS

19 Jerry O'Neil, Sonya Germann, Paul McKenzie, Sharon Lamar,
20 Dr. Kari Gunderson, Brent Morrow, Peter Nelson, John
21 Hansen, Ron Anderson, Mike Anderson, Lance Olsen, Mark
22 Smolen, Edd Blackler, Steve Windbigler, Doug Norman, Jake
23 Kreilick, Steve Gniadek, John Larson, Brian Peck, Noah
24 Bodman, Dave Haddon, Frank Vitale, Sarah Lundstrum, Amy
25 Robinson, Jared Richardson.

1 Wednesday, April 11, 2018 - 9:00 a.m.

2 TIMBER

3 MR. WEBER: Welcome everyone. My name is
4 Chip Weber, I'm the Forest supervisor on the Flathead.
5 I'm the deciding official for the forest plan. I have
6 Leanne Marten to my right. She is the regional forester
7 and she is the responsible official for these hearings
8 with the exception of species of environmental concern.
9 And she'll talk more about what she wants in terms of
10 process.

11 I'd like to do a couple things right now. I'd
12 like to introduce our team that worked on the plan -- or
13 have them introduce themselves, and then I'll talk a
14 little bit about sort of logistics and safety things and
15 then talk a little bit about what I'm hopeful for for
16 this week and then I'll turn it over to Leanne.

17 So if the team would start with introduction,
18 starting with Joe.

19 MR. KRUEGER: Good morning, everybody. Joe
20 Krueger, Flathead National Forest team leader for the
21 forest plan revision effort.

22 MS. MOORE: Marsha Moore, the recreation
23 wilderness planner.

24 MS. TRECHSEL: Heidi Trechsel, the
25 vegetation specialist for the plan.

1 MR. SMITH: Raymond Smith. I'm in charge
2 of objections and litigation in the regional office
3 wherever that is, Missoula.

4 MS. RUSHO: I'm Nancy Rusho, and I do the
5 administrative review process for the species of
6 conservation concern in the Washington office. But at
7 one time I actually worked as a geologist a little bit on
8 the plan.

9 MR. VAN EIMEREN: Good morning. I'm Pat
10 Van Eimeren, aquatic specialist on the planning team.

11 MR. AKE: Good morning. I'm Kathy Ake.
12 I'm the GIS specialist for the team.

13 MR. WEBER: And you've all met Ginny Tribe,
14 our able facilitator.

15 MS. TRIBE: Don't set me up.

16 MR. WEBER: Just on logistics, restrooms,
17 if you need them, are out the back door and to your left
18 just after you'll cross like a threshold into another
19 area. They're just to your left there. Should we have
20 any kind of an incident, fire or something like that and
21 you need to get out, please go out that front door and
22 gather together safely at the front of the parking lot.

23 I'm glad that everybody traveled safely to get
24 here and really want to make you feel welcome to
25 Kalispell and to the Flathead National Forest, a place we

1 all love.

2 So it's been a pretty long process to get to
3 this point, and I really want to thank you -- start by
4 thanking you for your participation. It's rowing hard
5 for a number of years on some difficult issues with
6 strongly held values. So I'm grateful for the process
7 we've had to get to this point.

8 Going into this week, I was trying to decide
9 exactly how I thought about this week, and I'd say I'm
10 coming at it with curiosity to what you all are bringing
11 to the table and some hope that we will find some
12 solution during the course of the week, or at least have
13 an understanding so that we can find solutions from what
14 we learn at this thing. So I'll be here answering
15 questions and doing a lot of sort of hard listening. And
16 I really appreciate your willingness and forbearance as
17 you share your solutions, share the values around them
18 and help us really learn. And my standpoint, this whole
19 process has been a learning process. It continues this
20 week, and this is sort of, in my mind, the last chance to
21 come to a better decision before we actually sign a
22 decision. So last chance to have the plan be better and
23 the decision be better. So thanks for coming and
24 contributing to that.

25 And I guess with that, I'll turn it to Leanne.

1 MS. MARTEN: Thanks, Chip. Can folks hear
2 me okay in the back also? Great.

3 And good morning, everyone. Great to see all
4 of you here. As Chip said, I'm Leanne Marten. I'm the
5 regional forester for the northern region. And for this
6 process, I'm also the reviewing official for the
7 objections on the Flathead plan revision. So really
8 appreciate everybody coming this morning. If you're
9 wondering why the table seems too big or there's so many
10 chairs, it's because as most of you aware and some of you
11 will be here throughout today and maybe the next couple
12 days, as we have three solid days of meetings on
13 different topics on the revision set up. And depending
14 on the topic and the interest, we will have people coming
15 and going as your schedules allow, and the numbers will
16 probably grow for some topics and maybe go back down to a
17 smaller group. So it may seem kind of large right now,
18 but I know that throughout the next couple days we'll be
19 having even more people coming and going throughout the
20 process from that.

21 We did have over approximately 74 objections
22 and objectors to the forest plan revision. And as Chip
23 said, I know folks have had a lot of passion over the
24 couple years they've been working on revisions. And I
25 can't thank you enough for just your involvement in

1 staying at the table. It's a lot of personal time away
2 from family and friends, and it's a lot of passion. And
3 it shows how much people love their public lands in
4 Montana and here on the Flathead. So thank you; really
5 appreciate that.

6 The intent over the next several days, I'll try
7 and summarize a little bit about the process on how we
8 got here, how we got the topics on the agenda, and then
9 what I see my role as and how I'm hoping you see your
10 role. But we'll have a chance for some questions, too.
11 Because some of this we'll be tweaking as we go along
12 based on what works for all of us together. Because this
13 isn't about what I need, it's about what we all need to
14 move forward together throughout the next couple days
15 from that perspective.

16 So a little bit on how we got here. I
17 mentioned that we have around 74 objectors. And as you
18 can imagine, we have a whole spectrum of objections and
19 issues that came up from the objectors. And we have a
20 lot of different values that are represented here in the
21 room and in writing from folks that came in. And one of
22 the things I just want to put out there is I'm not asking
23 anybody to change their values. I would never ask
24 anybody to change their values and where you're coming
25 from. I respect everybody's values. They're all

1 extremely valuable and they're extremely helpful. What
2 we're looking for is, really, for all of you to work
3 together on the various topics we'll be talking about and
4 having a dialogue and seeing is there a way for us to
5 move forward on potential remedies on objections that
6 were brought forward, ideas that maybe we haven't thought
7 of or just a different perspective or understanding.

8 I'm not going to be making any final decisions
9 on the objections during these meetings. You will in the
10 future be getting final written responses to every one of
11 your objections from me as the reviewing officer. I will
12 tell you that over the next three days we do not have
13 enough time, even in three days, to touch on all of the
14 issues that were brought forward. But the written
15 responses you'll receive, your issues will be addressed
16 in the written responses. It will not be point-by-point.
17 One of the things with the objection process is where the
18 like issues, we will group those on that. If you get my
19 response and you truly can't see where, even through a
20 grouping, your issue was responded to, please let us know
21 on that part of it. But I just don't want to set up the
22 expectation that you're going to see everybody verbatim
23 or point-by-point. Some of you may have had two pages of
24 a letter that came in through the objections. We had
25 some that were a couple hundred pages long. And so to

1 do that, if you can imagine, it just isn't possible for
2 us, in a timely manner, that we want to honor your time
3 and respond in a timely manner to go point-by-point from
4 that standpoint.

5 How we got to the topics on the agenda. So I
6 have reviewed objections. I have had a wonderful
7 interaction with the team that Chip introduced and in
8 working with Chip as the deciding official throughout the
9 process and definitely with the objections. We also have
10 what I did at the regional level is pull together an
11 objection review panel of folks that had not worked on
12 the plan. So that included people from other regions.
13 We had some folks from the Washington office help us
14 because as we go through the revision in the region,
15 there's a lot of people out of the regional office that
16 helped the Forest as we go through the process.

17 But I wanted folks that had not worked on the
18 revision to have some fresh eyes on the objections that
19 were received and take a hard look at the objections at
20 what was in the record, working with Chip and his team to
21 see how we did or did not address the issues that were
22 brought forward.

23 And based on that, there were several of these
24 topics that are on the agenda over the next three days
25 where I could really use your help and helping

1 clarifying, not restating, your objection but maybe
2 clarifying the proposed remedies that came out from there
3 how you, together on the same topic, may be able to work
4 together to see if there's ways we could maybe remedy or
5 come up with a potential resolution to a couple of the
6 objections. We may or may not be able to. But just
7 trying to really see how we can make sure, as I move
8 forward in my review and my decision, really have an
9 informed decision, have the right information on the
10 table. Because as Chip said, the overall intent is to
11 continue to improve the decision and the forest plan
12 moving forward to have as much support as we can across
13 all owners, which is public, local, regionally,
14 nationally for how we enjoy the Flathead National Forest
15 from that perspective.

16 And some of this as we go through, I'm going to
17 try and ask some questions. And again, a lot of it's
18 just you folks working together and having a dialogue
19 amongst yourselves and some understanding there.

20 We're not looking for consensus. I don't think
21 consensus -- if we get it, wonderful. But I'm not
22 expecting that we're going to come to consensus on
23 things. Again, because I know that just some of these we
24 just have some different values. And so what I'm trying
25 to do, one of my challenges in my position is how do I

1 take all the different values and the passion and
2 perspective and make an informed decision that tries to
3 do as best we can to address those and have, I'll say
4 balance, but balance isn't necessarily equally balanced.
5 But a balanced variety of use of your public lands that
6 we're just honored and privileged to be able to manage on
7 your behalf here on the Flathead from there.

8 The other thing that I want to mention is from
9 the standpoint of continuing to move forward in the
10 timeframe. I don't have a set date that you're going to
11 be receiving the written responses. I will tell you that
12 the intent is definitely in the near future, and we're
13 not talking months out from that standpoint. What I do
14 want to do is make sure we have enough time to do due
15 diligence. And if there's things that we need to explore
16 a little bit more, make sure we're putting the time into
17 that process and honor the hard work you guys have done
18 over the years with the Flathead National Forest team on
19 this revision from that.

20 We have several of you at the table that have
21 objected. We also have interested parties. And so we
22 want to be able to have everybody have a voice. Ginny's
23 going to help me with that facilitation from that
24 standpoint. And because we do have limited time and we
25 do on the agenda we need to honor the time frames on the

1 agenda. Because just like many of you, you scheduled
2 your days. Some of you are taking time off work to be
3 here for certain topics, and we need to honor from that
4 perspective. We have some folks on the phone, so when we
5 do the introductions, Ginny will help us with the phone.
6 That's going to be a little bit challenging. So if you
7 could bear with us, we're going to try and be sure we
8 don't miss folks on the phone. But we also wanted to
9 make sure we have as great an opportunity as possible for
10 folks to participate that were interested from that
11 standpoint.

12 So I'm going to pause there and see are there
13 questions on the process or the intent, how we got to
14 where we got to? Just kind of throw that out for folks.

15 So here's the other thing. And we'll start it
16 shortly. I'm going to turn it over to Ginny in a minute
17 and then we'll start on the topic. Here's the other
18 thing that's going to be a little bit tricky and I'm
19 going to need your help on this. So you'll see through
20 the next three days various topics. The first one is
21 timber. There's a lot of subpoints, a lot of issues
22 regarding the general heading timber that came up. We're
23 not going to have the opportunity to discuss every single
24 point that was -- could be categorized as timber.

25 There's a couple of them. We have a briefing paper that

1 I want to focus in on to start the dialogue and try and
2 see where we go with that. You'll have an opportunity,
3 if there's something -- we may not have the opportunity
4 to have a full dialogue, but if there's something that
5 you want to make sure that I'm aware of, we're going to
6 try working, with Ginny's help, to make sure we at least
7 have that out on the table from that perspective. But
8 please keep in mind, I'm very familiar and have been
9 involved and have read the objections. So I really don't
10 need, unless there's questions, for a restating of your
11 objection. I'm real familiar with that and I have all
12 the written objections from that standpoint. So it's not
13 that I need to -- be familiar because I am familiar from
14 that. So nothing is not going to be addressed. We just
15 won't have the chance to do it, necessarily, in these
16 meetings over the next couple days, every single subpoint
17 on that.

18 Great. So I'm going to turn it over to Ginny
19 on a little bit of the facilitation and then we'll just
20 dive right in and we'll go with the flow on that.

21 MS. TRIBE: So I have about four things I
22 want to just visit briefly. And I guess I need you to
23 know that in some ways we wouldn't call you guinea pigs
24 but, you know, this is the first one of these
25 out-of-the-box this morning. So at the end of the hour,

1 or at eleven o'clock, I'm also going to ask you if you
2 have any observations about the process that would help
3 us as we go through the three days. So we're sort of
4 depending on you for that as well on the content issues
5 that are here, if you wouldn't mind.

6 So we just need to do a couple things about
7 logistics. I want to make sure that the people who have
8 standing and have filed as objectors for timber are at
9 the table as well as interested parties who filed that
10 way are at the table. I've spoken with most of you about
11 you're here to observe, you're looking at some other
12 issues, and someone said I just want to see how this
13 works. And I said We do too. So we'll check that out as
14 we go.

15 The microphones on the table we may or may not
16 need them for the large group. But the court reporter
17 really needs to hear what you say. And so when you
18 speak, I'm going to ask you to say your name first, even
19 if you're making a second comment, just so that Bambi
20 knows.

21 Bambi, you want to introduce yourself?

22 THE REPORTER: Not really. I'm a freelance
23 court reporter here in the Valley.

24 MS. TRIBE: So she's here as a neutral.
25 She doesn't work for the Forest Service. I'm here as a

1 neutral. I don't work for the Forest Service. I'm from
2 out of town. So when you speak, if you would say your
3 name ahead of time, just so we make sure that we get it
4 on the record. I also want the other people in the
5 audience to be able to hear who's speaking. So is that
6 okay? If it gets sort of roped and ridiculous, then we
7 won't have to do it. But we'll do it for a while.

8 My role here is to make sure that everybody
9 gets a chance to participate who's at the table. So the
10 way this will work is that we'll have a conversation at
11 the table. And then if there are interested parties who
12 have not filed related to this timber issue and who have
13 a comment, if there's time at the end, we want to be sure
14 that you have an opportunity to do that. Let's say that
15 we get to one of the other issues later in the day and
16 we've got 50 people in the room, that's going to be a
17 harder thing to do. But I'm going to try to do
18 everything I can to make sure that who wants to say
19 something at the end gets to do that.

20 My role is also to kind of keep us focused.
21 I'm going to try to keep us out of the weeds. It's not
22 my business, I'm not a contest person in these issues.
23 But for time's sake, we're going to really try to
24 concentrate on the larger issues. And I know that Leanne
25 has some questions to kind of help you along with that.

1 One of the most important things here today is
2 that the dialogue occurs between the agency and folks who
3 truly brought those objections to the table but also how
4 valuable it would be to see dialogue between you. It
5 just helps with the understanding of the issue by folks
6 like Chip and Leanne as well as the team members who are
7 working on the plan. So this is not about, again, it's
8 not a session for consensus. It's not a decision-making
9 session. It's not a session to be a talking head and
10 repeat the objection. It's really an opportunity to be
11 able to have some focused or structured conversation
12 about the issues that are really important to you that
13 brought you to the table. So I'm going to try to help
14 with that.

15 Our ground rules would include some things like
16 if you've got an electronic device turned on, a cell
17 phone, mine won't interrupt any of you because I still
18 use one of these. But if you have something, you've got
19 email coming, et cetera, or you've got a call, we're
20 going to ask you to step out in the hall to take care of
21 that rather than doing it at the table.

22 I've been doing this about thirty years. And I
23 can say that when people are civil with each other and
24 the conversation remains civil, we're more productive.
25 So if things did get out of hand and somebody grabbed a

1 mic and started slapping somebody else with it, I might
2 walk over closely and we'll talk about that. I might
3 walk over closely and just sort of encourage you to be
4 civil in the conversation. I mean, nobody in here would
5 not be civil but just in case that happens to come up.

6 The other thing that we want to make sure is
7 that there's a clear understanding of what you're trying
8 to say. And if it doesn't sound like it's clear, and
9 these guys don't hear it clearly, I might say Would you
10 mind helping us with that a little bit? Could we ask
11 some questions? Just can we sort that out a little bit
12 so we really know what you're saying?

13 So once again, we're so happy that you're here.
14 Do you have any questions about ground rules, anything
15 like that? You all right? You ready?

16 Okay; we picked up time for timber just like
17 Amtrak, so all right.

18 MS. MARTEN: Thanks, Ginny. One of the
19 other things I will add to that is I -- in anything I do
20 but definitely sitting here today, I am not going to try
21 and portray that I am an expert or I know all the detail
22 on things on this revision. So if we get into dialogue
23 and there's things that come up, I will definitely ask
24 for Chip or the team's help or others to help with that
25 at times. And if I start misspeaking, whatever, they

1 will just interrupt me because I've said -- make sure
2 that I'm not misportraying something or if I have a
3 misunderstanding that's what I need some help with. So
4 don't be surprised if at times I say Hey, Joe, can you
5 help me out with this, or Marsha or something along those
6 lines here.

7 One of the real advantages of the objection
8 process that I've found throughout my career over the
9 several years on several of these is the fact that that
10 interaction with all of you and with folks at the level
11 that are making the decision that work on analysis is
12 extremely beneficial to have that continued interaction.
13 So I did just want to mention that it's not going to be
14 just me being a talking head here, by any means, and
15 there will be times that I'll pull in other people to
16 just assist with that.

17 MS. TRIBE: So Leanne and Chip, so that
18 you're more comfortable with who's here, maybe we should
19 hear who's here and what they represent, and we'll also
20 go to the phone and see if we've got people that have
21 called in on this particular issue.

22 So Mr. O'Neil, would you like to start?

23 MR. O'NEIL: I'm Jerry O'Neil. I represent
24 myself and Montanans for Multiple Use. And we're
25 interested in how the timber is being harvested on the

1 Forest.

2 MS. GERMANN: My name is Sonya Germann.
3 I'm with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and
4 Conservation. And we're here just interested to hear the
5 conversations.

6 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

7 MR. MCKENZIE: I'm Paul McKenzie. I'm the
8 land resource manager for F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber
9 Company and involved in the process even before Chip got
10 the process started. We've been obviously very invested
11 in the Flathead Forest. We live and work here and have
12 some concerns and voices we'd like to say.

13 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

14 MS. LAMAR: I'm Sharon Lamar. I'm a
15 citizen. I live in the Swan Valley and am a landowner.
16 And I'm a conservationist and have concerns about forest
17 management in the Valley that I live in.

18 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

19 DR. GUNDERSON: My name is Dr. Kari
20 Gunderson, and I have been a resident of the Swan Valley
21 for four decades. I am a third-generation Montanan, and
22 I value my public lands. I value the managers who have
23 this difficult, challenging process. But as an American,
24 I want my voice heard in regards to all of these issues.

25 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

1 MR. MORROW: Brent Morrow, Central Swan
2 Valley-Salmon Prairie. I've been a Montanan since the
3 early '80s. Owned property in the Salmon Prairie Valley
4 area. My family, great granddad helped settle Bigfork,
5 Montana at the turn of the century, so I have a lot of
6 past issues that evolve from my family. I have a real
7 interest in wilderness, increasing wilderness in the Swan
8 front, expanding that Jewel Basin area and less intensive
9 forest management on the fringe of that wilderness and
10 within the Valley. And I'd like to see the Forest
11 Service manage the Central Swan Valley and not have it go
12 into the Swan Forest Initiative, which is being proposed
13 where the State would take that over. I'd like to see
14 the Forest Service be proactive. So those are some of my
15 interests.

16 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

17 So we have a couple folks on the phone.

18 Timory, you're going to help me with this a
19 little bit.

20 Are there folks who have called in who are
21 calling in on the timber issue?

22 MR. NELSON: This is Pete Nelson, director
23 of the federal lands program with Defenders of Wildlife
24 in Bozeman, Montana.

25 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

1 MS. KELLY: Hi. This is Virginia Kelly,
2 and I'm also calling in from Bozeman. And I'll be joined
3 by Mariah Leuschen-Lonergan. And we are on the Custer
4 Gallatin National Forest on the plan revision team. And
5 so we're observing how the Flathead is conducting the
6 objections meeting.

7 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

8 MS. PEEL: I would say I did do a little
9 welcome at the beginning if other folks are on the phone,
10 we may have a lot of folks that are calling to listen in
11 and we very much welcome your input. However, we will be
12 asking to just the objectors or interested parties to
13 speak. And so you're very welcome, but those will be the
14 folks that will be talking during the objection
15 resolution discussions.

16 And just a reminder, please mute your phones
17 when you are not speaking in order to limit any
18 background noise; thank you.

19 MS. TRIBE: Thanks, Timory.

20 MS. MARTEN: So if I could just do a real
21 quick check, I'll ask Pete Nelson, have you been able to
22 hear okay as we went around the room with introductions?

23 MR. NELSON: Good morning, Leanne.

24 MS. MARTEN: Good morning.

25 MR. NELSON: Yeah, for the most part it

1 sounds like there's people dispersed around the room. I
2 think when the facilitator was talking it was a bit more
3 distant. I had to bump my volume a little bit to catch
4 everything that was said. But Leanne and it sounds like
5 the other folks directly surrounding the mic are coming
6 in loud and clear.

7 MS. MARTEN: Great; thank you. And we
8 could use some help if something changes with that, if
9 folks can let us know we will continue to adjust as best
10 we can.

11 MR. NELSON: Will do.

12 MS. TRIBE: And Pete, I'm going to try not
13 to use the mic because we need to use it for folks. So
14 my part is not quite as important. Bambi will be able to
15 hear me; I'm right behind her. So thanks, Leanne, for
16 checking that.

17 Because we have a small group this morning and
18 we have a little bit of extra time, I'm going to ask the
19 people in the audience to introduce themselves very
20 quickly, just who you are and if you're representing
21 someone yourself. We won't do that every time with 30 or
22 40 people in the room. But I think it would be a nice
23 thing, plus it gives us practice.

24 So do you mind starting over there?

25 Thanks, Timory.

1 MS. LUNDSTRUM: Sarah Lundstrum. I work
2 for the National Parks Conservation Association, but I'm
3 also here representing the Whitefish Range Partnership as
4 an interested party.

5 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

6 MR. LARSON: John Larson at the base of
7 Krause Creek, and I'm just representing myself.

8 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

9 MR. HADDON: Dave Haddon, with Headwaters
10 Montana, observer for this morning, objector on the
11 recommended wilderness.

12 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

13 MS. ROBINSON: Amy Robinson, Montana
14 Wilderness Association.

15 MS. TRIBE: Thanks.

16 MR. GNIADK: I'm Steve Gniadek, retired
17 wildlife biologist, and I represent both North Fork
18 Preservation Association and myself.

19 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

20 MR. SIMPSON: Good morning. I'm Neil
21 Simpson, I work for the Department of Natural Resources
22 and Conservation.

23 MS. TRIBE: Thanks.

24 MS. MCKAY: Kathy McKay from Kalispell,
25 observing today.

1 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

2 MR. ANDERSON: Mike Anderson representing
3 the Wilderness Society.

4 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

5 MR. KASNER: Good morning. Chet Kasner,
6 Forest Service, just observing the meeting today.

7 MS. TRIBE: Thanks.

8 FROM THE FLOOR: Jody Freud, and I'm with
9 the Forest Service as well.

10 MS. TRIBE: Thank you. We have a couple
11 people hiding back there in the corner.

12 MR. CARLIN: Good morning. Rob Carlin, I'm
13 a Forest staff officer here for the Flathead National
14 Forest, the resources planning and fire programs.

15 MS. TURK: Janette Turk with the National
16 Forest public affairs officer.

17 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

18 MS. ALLEN: Hi. I'm Stacy Allen. I'm the
19 writer/editor for the Flathead Forest Service team.

20 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

21 Leanne, I hope you didn't mind that extra time.

22 MS. MARTEN: No, that was great. Again,
23 welcome everyone, and welcome to everyone on the phone as
24 well.

25 So we're going to jump right into timber now.

1 And what we have for folks that are here in the
2 room -- and I need to ask a logistical question for the
3 briefing papers for the folks on the phone. Were they
4 posted on the briefing papers? Can we do that? Can we
5 post like the one for timber so the folks on the phone
6 can pull that up and have that for during the discussion,
7 the objections and interested parties? My apologies. It
8 just dawned on me for the folks on the phone what we have
9 for a handout this morning. And we'll have to remember
10 that for the other topics to make sure we have it in a
11 way that folks participating via the phone will have
12 those as well.

13 MS. TRIBE: And everyone else got them.

14 MS. MARTEN: Everyone else got them. So my
15 apologies for folks joining us on the phone. So we'll
16 correct that.

17 As we're doing that and as it's coming, what
18 these are, the briefing paper on timber the folks have in
19 front of them, we put these together just as a starting
20 point to kick off the dialogue. And that's all they're
21 really meant for. They're not meant to be the nth degree
22 and have everything in there. But we thought it would be
23 helpful as we go through the different topics over the
24 next couple of days to have a starting point. So I'm not
25 going to read everything that's in the briefing paper.

1 What I thought I'd do to start this out, and
2 you guys can tell me if this is working or not, is I'll
3 summarize my brief understanding of one portion of the
4 timber issue that we want to start with as shown in this
5 briefing paper, the proposed remedy that was brought to
6 us that I've been taking a really hard look at, some of
7 my thoughts, my initial thoughts that I'm considering on
8 that remedy, and then I really want to have your folks's
9 thoughts and some dialogue on what you think of that, how
10 it's sitting, things that I may not be aware of or
11 considering from that perspective.

12 So one aspect of the timber issue, and this is
13 just one part of it that I want to start with this
14 morning and try and get some help from you all, was
15 regarding the potential timber sale quality, PTSQ, and
16 the potential wood sale quantity, PWSQ. And I'm going to
17 try not to be just an acronym person here. So if I say
18 an acronym and I don't spell it out, somebody call me on
19 that. And if I don't know it, that's why I have people
20 to help me on this. But it's how that was disclosed and
21 displayed.

22 So part of the 2012 planning rule that this
23 forest plan is being revised under, part of that rule
24 requires us to show the PTSQ, PWSQ within our -- and I'm
25 going to use the term "constrained budget," within our

1 budget capacity -- and use that as a starting point. So
2 we use the trends over the last couple years on what the
3 average budget for the Flathead National Forest has been
4 and use that when we're doing some of the modeling and
5 some of the ways that we were helping to disclose an
6 analysis regarding potential timber sale quantity and
7 potential wood sale quantity in the EIS analysis and the
8 forest plan.

9 Some of the input that we got and the
10 objections has been how that may put -- and this is my
11 wording, how that may put a false ceiling or a false
12 minimum on what is really needed out there for the
13 resources. So the desire in the proposed remedy is
14 actually not changing what we said could be done and what
15 would be done from a timber perspective and how we
16 measure that, but actually also disclosing if we were not
17 constrained by a fiscal budget, what could be the
18 possibilities of the activity on the ground and the
19 resulting, in this case, timber volume, potential timber
20 sale quantity and potential wood sale quantity. And what
21 you'll see on the back page there is some potential
22 wording for some objections -- objectives in the forest
23 plan that would add some language along those lines from
24 there.

25 So when I took a look at this, you know, on the

1 one hand, my first thought was That seems reasonable.
2 Because what is being worded there isn't something that
3 isn't disclosed elsewhere in the EIS or in the forest
4 plan. It's information that's already been in there and
5 that you folks are all aware of. So it's not changing
6 that. It's simply changing maybe the location where it's
7 being worded and where it's being displayed. However,
8 here is a little bit of the nuance that I have to work
9 within and then I'll move forward. Based on the rule and
10 the directives for the rule for objectives in the forest
11 plan, I have to have those where they are within that
12 fiscal capacity. So for me to put something in an
13 objective that talks about the nonconstrained, I don't
14 have that flexibility to do it right there.

15 So what I was considering and what I wanted to
16 put out there to see what folks thought about and open
17 the dialogue, is not having as worded exactly in the
18 objective but to put a footnote so it's bringing that
19 information forward, that should we have other
20 opportunities such as -- and I'm going to bring up and
21 most folks in here I know have been extremely involved in
22 planning and in projects. But we have authorities under
23 the 2014 Farm Bill such as good neighbor authority.

24 We have other efficiencies as an agency that
25 we're working on through our environmental analysis and

1 decision making. We've had round tables and I think
2 several of you, because I recognize and know many of you,
3 have been involved in those discussions. So we have
4 other efficiencies that we're working on that could, that
5 may not be the fiscal side, but have other efficiencies
6 that could move us towards restoration work including
7 timber, vegetation restoration work and others as we've
8 disclosed in the EIS. So I'm trying to get at maybe as a
9 footnote maybe put in some wording from that perspective
10 so it's a little bit more up front and clear to folks
11 that are reading the documents versus in the objective
12 portion of it.

13 So I'm going to pause there and see if there's
14 just even questions on that but also that's where I'd
15 like to start opening a dialogue on how does that
16 resonate? How does that sound to folks? Does it start
17 to meet some of the folks that propose the remedy or
18 folks that may have just even concerns with even a remedy
19 along those lines? I'll just throw that out there.

20 MS. TRIBE: Paul, do you want to give it a
21 shot?

22 MR. MCKENZIE: Sure. Do I need to use the
23 microphone or can you hear me just fine?

24 MS. TRIBE: I think we can hear.

25 Pete, can you hear Paul speaking?

1 MR. NELSON: Yeah, he was coming in pretty
2 good right there.

3 MS. MARTEN: Pete, you're my guinea pig
4 today; sorry.

5 Go for it, Paul.

6 MR. MCKENZIE: It sounds like you have a
7 very good understanding of our concern. One thing we've
8 learned over time is this is a primary basis of our
9 objection is that numbers of forest plans matter. And we
10 have to be very careful that we don't have unattended
11 consequences of what could be perceived as limits or
12 perceived as targets that are in a forest plan that could
13 come back to bite us in the future. And that's our
14 primary concern. This is an issue that we brought up
15 across all objectives, not just the timber objective.

16 We feel strongly that the plan needs to state
17 what needs to be done to meet the demands of the land and
18 the demands of society. We understand the requirements
19 within the rule to disclose objectives that are within a
20 reasonable budget. At the same point in time we don't
21 see that as the only opportunity to not disclose what
22 accomplishments should be. That doesn't make any
23 difference if it's timber or trail miles or what have
24 you. So we could file a whole bunch of objectives -- or
25 objections on these numbers that are similarly set

1 throughout the plan. We chose to focus on this one
2 because it's most directly impactful to us in our folks
3 that are interested in this issue.

4 So the issue is, I think it's important to
5 disclose that this is not a limit, that this is a
6 reasonable expectation based on past budgets. I think
7 your proposed remedy might be sufficient. I think it has
8 to be very strongly worded, though, in that it's not just
9 a footnote but that it's maybe considered part of the
10 text that's in the precursor, the discussion of the oh,
11 you know, leading up to the Forest vegetation timber
12 element of the plan where you talk about the sustained
13 yield limit. You know, that number is in there, up
14 there. Maybe there is another place where it's a little
15 more impactful. I still feel that the objective could be
16 written in such a way that it still complied with the
17 rule and that disclosed what the budget constrained
18 number projection is but clearly, you know, disclose that
19 the objective of the Forest needs to be higher.

20 I appreciate the planning team's participation
21 in this and the fact that they did the initial analysis.
22 I think burying it in the EIS is a mistake. I think we
23 need to give that number for the alternative likely to be
24 chosen in the forest plan so we can clearly state to
25 somebody that looks at this twenty years from now that's

1 not in this room that the intent was not to limit us to
2 this number at 27, 26 or whatever it is as the PTSQ but
3 that that was a projection based on budgets. And like
4 you referenced, there's a lot of reason to expect that
5 those budgets will change or those constraints will
6 change moving ahead. So that's our concern. I don't
7 know that a footnote would suffice to address our issue,
8 but we would be open to looking at it including somewhere
9 else within the actual language of the forest plan that
10 clearly discloses that. I still think the objective is
11 the right place for it, if we could can find a way to do
12 both.

13 MS. MARTEN: So if I could ask a follow-up
14 question to that, and then I definitely want to hear
15 other voices in the room. You mentioned more than
16 timber, understanding why you chose that one in your
17 objection. And thank you for not filing hundreds of
18 pages for the other parts. Appreciate that. So can you
19 help me understand how it would look to you beyond the
20 timber, the bigger picture? Do you have an idea how that
21 would look in a preamble to the forest plan or -- I'm
22 thinking more than the timber. Because like you said,
23 you know, we've got ranges and stuff with other
24 resources.

25 MR. MCKENZIE: Sure. So in general on all

1 other issues, we have a desire to conditions that you're
2 trying to work towards. You have a known pace and scale
3 that you'd like to see in order to meet those future
4 conditions. I think it's important to disclose what the
5 rate of action would be, no matter what the issue is,
6 like I say, whether it's timber or acres of fuel
7 management or miles of trail maintenance. I think it's
8 important to disclose what it should be in order to reach
9 the desired future condition. Then in your objection or
10 somewhere else you can say that based on current and past
11 budget, here's what we're reasonably able to achieve.

12 The forest plan is to lay out a map as far as
13 where we'd like to be. And can do things, whether it be
14 through political action or through funding or these
15 different partnerships, in order to achieve these higher
16 levels of achievement. But if you set the bar too low,
17 then there's very little opportunity for us to get to
18 where we need to be. So I guess that's our concern.

19 We don't want to set the bar too low based on
20 the past. We all know the past is not where we want to
21 be in the future. So how do we set up a plan that allows
22 us to get to where we want to be in the future and still
23 comply with the planning rule? That's the challenge.
24 And we've been bringing this issue up with the planning
25 rule since day one, you know, and we --

1 MS. MARTEN: Yeah, I'm very familiar with
2 that too.

3 MR. MCKENZIE: -- haven't made a lot of
4 progress. But it makes sense as a land manager myself, I
5 don't write my plans based on what my current budget is.
6 I write my plan based on the land use and what the
7 society needs. And then I figure out how to get a budget
8 and a process to get there. That's how we see the plan
9 should be.

10 MS. MARTEN: Appreciate that. And you
11 brought up a point that I'll just mention. You know,
12 there's several objections as part of this one and some
13 others over the next couple days that I'm very familiar
14 with the rule and the history there. And there's just
15 some disagreement even on the 2012 planning rule. And I
16 totally respect that. What I'm trying to do is I don't
17 have the authority to do anything but the 2012 plan rule
18 other than I have to adhere to it. But figuring out,
19 again, where we have some flexibility where we might be
20 able to meet some of the needs to that you all are asking
21 us to meet. And if not, I want to be up front where I
22 cannot. And you may have a different interpretation, and
23 I respect that, but I just don't want to set up false
24 expectations about that.

25 Curious about what others' thoughts are.

1 MS. TRIBE: So again, what Paul is saying
2 is that he would like some written description of what's
3 possible within certain kinds of -- absent certain kinds
4 of restraint. And in response to Leanne's question, in a
5 broad sense, that would be a concept that you would be
6 comfortable with presented in the beginning of the plan
7 that took in all the resources. Now, that helps others
8 think about is that a concept? Is that something that
9 would be useful in the eyes above us? Leanne is asking
10 for comments on that. Should it be presented in a way
11 that if, absent certain constraints, this is what would
12 be possible?

13 Kari, any comments?

14 DR. GUNDERSON: I think, Paul, you've made
15 some good points. The thing that keeps me up nights is
16 the uncertainty of management due to climate change. And
17 we use these buzz words, "adaptive management," which
18 suggests we have to have flexibility over time. Wildlife
19 travel corridors may change because of climate change.
20 And so I don't have a solution to that, but it's kind of
21 a double-edged sword of the uncertainty in planning. I
22 know you want more definition, but we also need to
23 recognize the uncertainty of what climate change is going
24 to bring.

25 MS. MARTEN: So Kari, do you have a thought

1 from a standpoint of -- you're right. Natural resource
2 management isn't static by any means, for a variety of
3 reasons. But I'm wondering, do you know, do you have any
4 thoughts on, as we're presenting in the plan from that
5 standpoint, a way to be more clear? Or is there
6 something else, again maybe in the wording or whatever,
7 that you're seeing that we miss on trying to just paint
8 that picture that it isn't static when it comes to
9 natural resources and climate change may be just one part
10 of the reason?

11 DR. GUNDERSON: Well, I just encourage you
12 to utilize the scientists that are on board at the Rocky
13 Mountain Research Station. There are the experts there.
14 They have volumes of research on these, the effects of
15 climate change, both as evident today and then
16 projections.

17 MS. MARTEN: Sure; thanks.

18 MR. MCKENZIE: I think what I'm proposing
19 is actually very much in line with what you're
20 presenting, is that we're trying to increase the amount
21 of flexibility we have in the plan and not constrain
22 ourselves up or down with flexibility. We all know the
23 current plan is a product going to be 54 million feet a
24 year. We haven't hit 54 million feet in my period of
25 time in twenty-five years here in the Flathead Valley.

1 We understand that. But if that number was in the
2 current plan set at 27 million we wouldn't be at the 30
3 million feet we are today. That's what I want to try to
4 avoid.

5 I agree with the concept of flexibility.
6 That's what we're trying to achieve here is to provide
7 the Forest more flexibility and not unduly constrain it
8 in the plan.

9 MS. GERMANN: Sonya Germann with Montana
10 DNRC. And just to bring a little bit more information
11 and, Leanne, you mentioned this too. So DNRC, we are a
12 close partner of the Forest Service and specifically the
13 Flathead National Forest. And together, cooperatively,
14 we're taking advantage of some of those authorities in
15 the 2014 Farm Bill, one of those being the Good Neighbor
16 Authority. And in that light, I'd be excited to talk,
17 off line, about the potential of the Good Neighbor
18 Authority, not just for timber but for all the
19 restoration objectives that are mentioned in the plan,
20 outlined in the plan, and that I think a lot of us could
21 get behind.

22 And for a lot of the reasons that Paul is
23 talking about, we would be supportive of a remedy that
24 would delineate the potential for all the various
25 resources in addition to timber. But being very specific

1 on what that potential or if the budgets were not
2 constrained, what number, you know, number of road miles,
3 number of board feet that could potentially take off the
4 forest. Because there is the potential, with some of
5 these current and perhaps new authorities, that we could
6 be doing more than what it would be constrained by
7 current budgets. So -- and that doesn't just include
8 timber, that includes many other restoration objectives
9 too.

10 So I think DNRC, from our perspective, we would
11 be very supportive of a remedy if it was to be in the
12 preamble or whatever that would be. But I would also say
13 I would support Paul's notion that making sure that
14 you're putting it in the right place so you can actually
15 take advantage of that and you're not burying it
16 somewhere where it wouldn't be possible to actually go
17 above what you're constrained by budget.

18 MS. TRIBE: So Sonya, how would you then
19 build the business of -- budget certainly can be a
20 constraint -- but climate change may be as well. How
21 would you build that in in terms of Kari's fit in? Where
22 would climate change fit in?

23 MS. MARTEN: This is where Sonya looks at
24 me and says Better you than me.

25 MS. TRIBE: I wanted the two of them to

1 talk.

2 MS. GERMANN: From what I understand, the
3 Flathead National Forest took into consideration climate
4 change in their analysis. So I think that has been
5 thoroughly vetted in the process too. So I guess that's
6 what I would say. But just making sure that via all of
7 these various resources that you might have a particular
8 goal that you want to reach where you're not constrained
9 by budgets. Just specifying the clear objectives that
10 could potentially reach.

11 MS. MARTEN: So I'm going to just make sure
12 we aren't missing -- and I know, Pete, you were actually
13 an objector/interested party on this topic as well. So
14 was there anything that you wanted to make sure you
15 voiced in the room at this time?

16 MR. NELSON: Thank you. Well, it's a very
17 interesting discussion. You know, this is something
18 that, Leanne, you know the Federal Advisory Committee on
19 forest planning talked about over the years.
20 Particularly on the PTSQ issue but also on other
21 budget-related matters for other types of objectives, you
22 know, this has been a tricky issue. And I think all the
23 commentators have made excellent points.

24 You know, there is this matter of objectives do
25 have the ability to drive budgets because you are going

1 to seek to fulfill those objectives. So objectives are
2 very important in that regard. And so I think it's
3 important not only to look at the PTSQ issue but other
4 objectives, as some of the other speakers have mentioned,
5 because those -- whatever those objectives are set at
6 actually may have the ability to actually fulfill them
7 and the Forest will have to make choices over investments
8 and certain times of objectives.

9 So for that reason, there's probably a
10 principle of fairness and equity here to offer that same
11 caveat or asterisk or footnote, Leanne, as you mentioned
12 across different types of objectives. Because I think
13 the issue transcends the PTSQ issue. But I do note the
14 issue there, and I think the Forest may want to look at
15 some of the work that came out of the Federal Advisory
16 Committee on this issue. I think maybe some
17 recommendations were offered in that regard. I'd have to
18 go back and look at our work. But it's a really good
19 discussion, and I think it sounds like we're on the right
20 track.

21 MS. MARTEN: Thank you, Pete. And Bambi
22 that's Peter Nelson, Defenders of Wildlife.

23 MS. TRIBE: So Leanne, we have -- we're
24 apologizing to the two of you. We got finished a little
25 bit early with the preview stuff and we decided to use

1 the time, and you probably thought we were starting at
2 10:00 on the timer discussion, so apologies. So would
3 you mind introducing yourselves and who you represent,
4 and then we'll just fold you into the conversation, if
5 that's all right.

6 MR. HANSEN: John Hansen. I'm with the
7 Montana Logging Association.

8 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

9 MR. ANDERSON: Ron Anderson, Swan Valley.

10 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

11 MS. MARTEN: So I will summarize real
12 briefly some of the dialogue to date. And we're right in
13 the middle of it, so welcome your input. The briefing
14 paper that you picked up when you walked in summarizes
15 the issue that we're discussing right now. And there
16 were potential remedies there brought forward. I
17 mentioned with those remedies one of the things I'm
18 considering is versus in the objectives because of some
19 of the wording of the 2012 plan rule doing some kind of
20 footnote to clarify if, without a budget constraint, what
21 we potentially could do when it comes to the timber side.
22 And then the dialogue has centered around it's more than
23 just timber.

24 Timber was the one thing that was brought
25 forward, but should we have other efficiencies, other

1 authorities, other means, fiscal being a part of it? We
2 want to make sure what I'm hearing from the group is real
3 clarity that we aren't constrained by certain numbers and
4 that we truly are building in some of the adaptive, I
5 think you said, Kari, the adaptive management when you
6 have things, because natural resources is not static on
7 that. But how you do that and how you keep it where you
8 are doing some analysis disclosing it and not having it
9 be so wide that it just doesn't make any sense is some of
10 the challenges and one of the things that we're working
11 on from that.

12 So one of the things that I'm hearing is, I
13 don't have all the wording worked out, but I'm hearing a
14 couple things that so far the dialogue, and you guys tell
15 me if I'm mishearing or misrepresenting this, please, is
16 clarifying and having further clarity on really what it
17 means to have the budget constraint, I'm thinking all
18 resources versus a nonconstraint. Just really clarifying
19 What does that mean or not mean? And as we've done the
20 analysis and disclosing things in the Flathead forest
21 plan where that fits in. And that could be -- I've heard
22 a couple -- I threw out just the consideration of a
23 footnote. I've heard in the preamble. Really, the theme
24 has been Don't bury it. Have it right up front where
25 twenty years from now where it's not me sitting here or

1 Chip sitting here, although maybe Chip will be here
2 twenty years from now -- Chip's shaking his head, for
3 those on the phone -- will be able to follow the
4 rationale and logic. So you know, record of decision,
5 preamble, you know, places that it's not so buried that
6 as plans go on, people lose the intent.

7 Timber being a key one. We've mentioned this
8 is something from the rule from day one. Pete, you
9 mentioned that the factor committee for the planning rule
10 nationally has had this discussion for many years. And
11 yes, I'm very familiar with those through previous roles
12 with that committee. And so I clarified before you
13 gentlemen came in that I don't have the authority,
14 obviously, to change the rule by I'm trying to figure out
15 the interpretation and how we can work within those
16 sideboards from that perspective. I'm going to see does
17 that have, at least for the folks that have been part of
18 the dialogue and brought voice so far, am I
19 misrepresenting, mishearing? Did I say something there
20 that sounded off base to you all?

21 And then I would just invite, if there's
22 anything else just with that. That's the quick summary
23 of where we're at so far on that portion of it. If
24 there's something else you'd like to voice at this time
25 or questions you may have at this time. And I see we had

1 another gentleman join us here at the table.

2 Could you introduce yourself please, sir?

3 MR. RICHARDSON: My name's Jared
4 Richardson. I'm with Weyerhaeuser.

5 MS. MARTEN: Thank you.

6 No? No? Okay.

7 So go ahead, Jerry.

8 MR. O'NEIL: I'm Jerry O'Neil. I don't see
9 my objection in the summary here on the timber plan.

10 I think we have a duty, a mandate, under the
11 National Environmental Protection Act of Endangered
12 Species in order to do what we can to protect them with
13 our logging practices in the Flathead National Forest.
14 We've got the glaciers melting. We've got the pike
15 they're worried about. We've got the lynx. We've got
16 the bull trout. We can do logging in such a way to cause
17 global cooling rather than global warming. I submitted a
18 scientific paper from the effects of boreal forest
19 vegetation on global climate.

20 One way to look at it, you look at the
21 Whitefish Range, you've got like clear-cuts where the ski
22 slope is, and then you've got selective harvest on there
23 where you can see the snow from Kalispell or from
24 Columbia Falls. And then you've got timber that is tight
25 where you have in the wintertime you have dark overstory

1 which is with no snow on it. When you have a tight
2 overstory, the snow falls on those trees and it
3 evaporates back into the environment rather than comes to
4 the ground. And therefore, the sun hits those trees and
5 warms up the air rather than goes down to the ground and
6 hits that snow and reflects back up into space.

7 In order to cause global cooling, I believe
8 we're going to have to at least double our forest harvest
9 because we're not harvesting enough to keep the trees
10 open enough to let the sunshine onto the ground. It will
11 also do a benefit of it will have more water in our
12 rivers and lakes and protect the bull trout better. But
13 right now we're not harvesting enough in order to cause
14 global cooling. And I think we need to do that.

15 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Jerry. So I'm
16 wondering when you filed your objection, did the
17 information that you just stated, did it come with your
18 objection?

19 MR. O'NEIL: Yes, it did.

20 MS. TRIBE: I just wanted to make sure the
21 Forest Service had that information; thank you.

22 MS. MARTEN: Yes.

23 MS. TRIBE: Other comments?

24 MS. MARTEN: And as Jerry just opened up,
25 we do have some time. So as I mentioned, there were

1 other issues underneath the bigger title, lack of better
2 term, of timber. So if there's other things at this
3 time, just like Mr. O'Neil just brought up, that we want
4 to make sure by all means, please, feel free to voice
5 that. And if not, and we get done a little bit early,
6 that's okay too. We'll take a little bit longer break
7 and then we'll move on. I think jobs and economy will be
8 the next topic, which I think some of you are part of
9 that as well. But we do have some time, so if there's
10 just anything else.

11 MS. TRIBE: So will you, please, go right
12 ahead. So she asked me to say your first name. It will
13 help her a lot.

14 MS. LAMAR: So Sharon from Swan Valley. My
15 concern as a landowner in Swan Valley and a public land
16 user is the values of the Forest beyond the dollar sign.
17 And I don't -- I'm not well versed in the budget and any
18 of the increments that you speak of. But I do know the
19 value of the Forest in other terms than just the monetary
20 value. So that's my viewpoint. And that I can speak to.
21 I can't speak to any of the other issues that you spoke
22 of.

23 You know, when I commented, I was in favor of
24 the alternative C because it was a moderate, I just say
25 logging. I think the terminology was "vegetation

1 management." But when the plan came out, it was
2 intensive logging throughout all of Swan Valley. It
3 appears to me there might have been one little color that
4 was different. But you know, a lot of the
5 checkerboard -- it used to be a checkerboard pattern,
6 Plum Creek timber and before that Burlington Northern
7 were the owners of those lands. And they've already been
8 intensively logged. And I'm sitting here next to my
9 neighbor who is a logger, Kvande. And Kvande has logged
10 on our property. And it's not like I'm against logging.
11 I understand the need for it. We had pine beetle
12 infestation and our trees needed to be taken care of.
13 But our land borders what is now Forest Service land, and
14 so we are neighbors. And I've seen how intensively
15 logged that area has been managed by the previous owner.
16 And I don't understand why it's classified to be
17 intensively logged when it's already been intensively
18 logged. And this plan extends for twenty years; am I
19 correct?

20 MS. MARTEN: Fifteen to twenty.

21 MS. LAMAR: Fifteen to twenty, thereabouts.
22 And as a layperson, not an expert in any manner or form,
23 I don't understand why that is proposed to be managed
24 that way. Anyway, that's basically what I wanted to say.

25 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Sharon.

1 MS. MARTEN: So Sharon, there's a couple
2 things I'll say to that. The first is thank you.
3 Because I think your perspective, just like everybody
4 else's, is very valid. And we all see things through
5 different lenses. So that's where I really appreciate
6 the voicing of that.

7 When it comes to Swan Valley and the different
8 management areas and the different proposed designations
9 in Chip's draft decision varies on the intensive logging,
10 I've been out there. I can't speak to every single one
11 of those. But this is where I'm going to take advantage
12 of if Joe or someone from the team, in a general sense,
13 maybe wants to talk about how a little bit -- or
14 Chip -- on the different levels and how some of those,
15 just some of the thought process. Not if it's right or
16 wrong, but maybe some of the thought process to answer
17 Sharon's question, if I could. Joe, or Heidi, maybe you
18 could.

19 MS. TRIBE: You want to come up, maybe grab
20 the mic.

21 MS. MARTEN: We're going to have Heidi from
22 the team come up.

23 MS. TRECHSEL: My name's Heidi Trechsel,
24 and I'll try and help you to understand a little more.
25 Is this on? First of all, I'll just say that there's a

1 reason it's called vegetation management in there,
2 because it's not just timber harvest that it's talking
3 about. And I understand from your perspective that you
4 see it's pretty heavily logged now, but you -- and so
5 you're wondering how can you be still intensively logging
6 it?

7 Well, first of all, it's a management area
8 designation, which means it's kind of a long-term
9 expectation based on the underlying values of the land.
10 In that case it's in a -- there's needs for fuel
11 management. There's needs for thinning. There's needs
12 for a variety of kinds of treatments to deal with some of
13 the priorities that we are anticipating to need on those
14 lands. So that's -- we try to -- you're talking 6c,
15 which is the moderate, medium intensity timber management
16 and then -- or high intensity; I'm sorry. I'm getting a
17 little flustered.

18 And then we have 6b, which is the medium
19 intensity timber management. So in the decision, and
20 Chip can talk a little more about this, we did -- or he
21 did choose to do areas across the Forest that were in the
22 wildland-urban interface as a more high-intensity
23 vegetation management focus.

24 Now, that doesn't mean that we're going to go
25 out there and willy-nilly just harvest wherever or treat

1 vegetation wherever it -- for no good reason. We still
2 have all the forest plan standards and guidelines and
3 direction is the same on both of those. So it's a
4 site-specifically implemented type of approach. So in
5 case of the area next to your property, for example, it's
6 already, you know, has had some treatment. There may be
7 some thinning needed. Who knows? That may be something
8 chosen to do. But it's a long-term kind of look at the
9 management of that ground. And I'll kind of stop there
10 because I don't know if that made a whole lot of sense.
11 If you have any questions.

12 MS. MARTEN: The one thing that I'll just
13 add, and this is for I think folks are aware of this.
14 But the forest plan is -- we use the term "programmatic."
15 It's the big picture. For instance, if there's a
16 proposal to do any kind of vegetation management,
17 logging, however you want to word it next to your
18 property, it will go through site-specific National
19 Environmental Policy Act analysis that will engage the
20 public all throughout that collaborative effort. So you
21 will have a voice on anything along those lines through
22 the implementation. So it isn't that you would not be
23 sitting at the table having a voice and you will be a
24 part of that collaborative process for anything being
25 proposed. And that's true with any management. That

1 could be trails work across the resources. I'm just
2 referring to logging in this case from that standpoint.

3 And as Heidi was saying, not that it's perfect
4 or that we got everything right by any means, but it's
5 one of those we're trying to look fifteen, twenty years
6 out and anticipate some of the dynamics of natural
7 resources, some of the needs across all the resource
8 areas was the intent for part of it. So that's just kind
9 of the bigger picture. That doesn't mean you have to
10 agree with that or still like it. I'm not trying to
11 change where you're at but just trying to answer some of
12 the thought process and some of the things the team
13 looked at as Heidi summarized.

14 MS. TRIBE: So Heidi, when you talk about
15 priorities, the reason, the rationale behind deciding
16 something in a particular area, Chip, do you want to talk
17 about those a little bit?

18 MR. WEBER: Yeah, Leanne stole all my
19 thunder on this last one. But really, we would come in
20 and look at an area, and there might not be any timber
21 harvest that occurs on that particular set of acres. But
22 the veg management is a broader topic, like Heidi was
23 saying. And so we -- we might have wildland-urban
24 interface fuels treatments or some of these other things
25 that we would do. It really depends on the stage of the

1 development and the condition of an individual place on
2 the ground. And that's why we do the project-level
3 planning that Leanne was talking about and why we engage
4 hopefully in a collaborative setting that we engage
5 through our formal processes as well as our collaborative
6 processes, landowners like yourself, neighbors, all the
7 neighbors at least have the opportunity to engage.

8 So I want to be sure when you were saying this
9 that you got that distinction between what we do with the
10 forest plan in terms of if you think of it sort of like
11 zoning the Forest and setting expectations for where it
12 would be within the forest plan. Where product level
13 planning is another opportunity for engagement on really
14 specifically what we want to do with any individual acre
15 or mile road or stream out there, those kinds of things.
16 So are you understanding that?

17 MS. LAMAR: I understand that. It's just
18 those broader terms lead someone to believe that there's
19 going to be intensive management. I mean, that's -- it's
20 probably all semantics, I suppose.

21 MR. WEBER: Well, at a scale of the Forest,
22 it allows us to sort of model outcomes around and outputs
23 around those expectations for management. And so that's
24 the value of having that broader term. Those zoning
25 areas she mentioned, the numbers for an area. So people

1 can sort of expect what might -- what it might look like
2 in the long-term. But we don't treat every acre of the
3 Forest within the life span of this twenty years or so of
4 the plan. We treat the ones that meet the needs for
5 getting to a desired future condition on that timeline.

6 MS. TRIBE: So Sharon, are you saying that
7 when you see the description of a particular management
8 area, that makes you nervous?

9 MS. LAMAR: When the whole valley is -- I
10 mean it says "intensively managed." And in my viewpoint
11 as a citizen, you know, I'm a resident, that's my
12 playground, I live and use the land and appreciate public
13 lands and value them greatly, it is worrisome that it is
14 intensively managed. And your whole Forest isn't
15 intensively managed.

16 And the Swan Valley has one of the most
17 biologically diverse areas on your Forest. And I hope
18 you take all of that into great consideration. Because
19 people like myself, and I'm not the only one, we value
20 our public lands and we hope that -- we understand you're
21 managing for many uses, not just for the dollar, the
22 dollar value. And I understand people make a living on
23 the Forest. I have no problem with that. I have no
24 problem with logging. But when you say intensive for the
25 Valley wide, it raises red flags. It's a concern. And

1 being --

2 MS. TRIBE: That gives you a message.

3 MS. LAMAR: -- you know, I'm not an expert
4 in anything related to timber, but I know what I value
5 and I know the value of wildlife and the Forest,
6 et cetera, and so on and so forth.

7 MS. MARTEN: Wonderful; thank you.

8 MS. TRIBE: You had your hand up.

9 MR. O'NEIL: Jerry O'Neil. A question for
10 Heidi or Chip. In your priorities on your Forest
11 management is increasing the albedo effect in order to
12 moderate global warming or to mitigate global warming and
13 make it lower to cause global cooling, is that one of
14 your priorities in management of the Forest when you do
15 logging or whatever?

16 MR. WEBER: So we looked at all kinds of
17 factors around climate change, other disturbances and
18 looked at ways to try to create a resilient Forest that
19 would be with all of those disturbances including climate
20 change would maintain healthy Forest and ecosystems and
21 functions. I don't know, I would ask maybe the team, if
22 any of them looked specifically at what Jerry's asking
23 about. But we cast sort of a broad net around the
24 conditions that would be out there for all kinds of
25 ecosystem functions like wildlife habitats, how fire

1 behaves on a landscape. So we looked broadly at those
2 things. I don't know, Pat or -- whether there was work
3 done around on the watershed end of things around what
4 Jerry's describing or not. But we certainly looked at
5 the effect of that on cold water environments like you
6 were referring to earlier, those kinds of things.

7 MR. VAN EIMEREN: Pat Van Eimeren,
8 fisheries biologist. We looked at global warming in
9 terms of what we predict from the latest science with
10 increasing fall rain events, rain on storm events, and so
11 forth and what that might do for, I guess, larger flash
12 floods like we saw in 2011 in Going-To-The-Sun Road with
13 multiple millions of dollars of damage, those type of
14 events, as well as increase in water temperatures for our
15 fish habitat and watersheds and considered that in our
16 analysis for trying to ameliorate that or prepare for
17 that through our conservation watershed.

18 MR. O'NEIL: Did you consider albedo
19 effect?

20 MR. VAN EIMEREN: No, I did not consider
21 that.

22 MR. O'NEIL: Would you do that in the
23 future, please?

24 MR. VAN EIMEREN: We could, yep.

25 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

1 If it's all right, I'd like to ask you, Sharon,
2 did you have any ideas about the language? What I heard
3 is a management area is applied. There's a description
4 of a management area, but it's at the programmatic level.
5 But then they explained at the next level, should a
6 project occur in there, there will be another process for
7 that. Do you have any ideas about how language could be
8 improved to explain that in the forest plan so people
9 understand that? Because I think you've been really
10 clear on the business of it scares you to think about
11 intensive management applied right there.

12 MS. LAMAR: Again, I'm a layperson --

13 MS. TRIBE: That's all right. Help the
14 layperson.

15 MS. LAMAR: -- so I don't have all the
16 terminology that everyone else has. But I understand
17 that there are homeowners in the Valley. And of course,
18 with our forest fire danger you want to have some
19 mitigation. I don't have a problem with that. But maybe
20 there are wide swaths of our Valley that are not
21 populated. I mean, there are no homes in those areas. I
22 mean, in my mind, those could be managed differently. I
23 mean, the fire mitigation, in my mind, would happen
24 around the homes. And that makes perfect sense to me.
25 So I don't have a map in front of me, but I think we all

1 know there are just wide swaths of Forest. And hopefully
2 they can be managed differently than the land that
3 surrounds the homes. Does that make sense?

4 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

5 MS. MARTEN: Appreciate it; thanks.

6 MR. O'NEIL: I have a question for Sharon.
7 Would you be willing to consider higher level of
8 management, more logging if it was shown to protect the
9 endangered species by contributing to global cooling?

10 MS. LAMAR: I don't understand any of that
11 that you talked about, so I can't comment.

12 MR. O'NEIL: I'll try to explain it to you.

13 MS. TRIBE: Well, Jerry, I also want to see
14 if there are other people that have comments that haven't
15 spoken yet. So can I ask you to wait for just a minute
16 before we get into that again?

17 MR. O'NEIL: Sure.

18 MS. TRIBE: Are there other people at the
19 table who want to have conversation about one of the
20 issues in your objections? And I know you came in a
21 little bit late, and that was our fault because we
22 started early. But do you have anything you wanted
23 to....

24 MR. RICHARDSON: Well, I didn't file an
25 objection during the objection period. My name's Jared

1 Richardson.

2 MS. TRIBE: So Jared, you did not file an
3 objection?

4 MR. RICHARDSON: I didn't.

5 MS. TRIBE: Then I'm going to treat you as
6 an observer.

7 MR. RICHARDSON: That's fine.

8 MR. MORROW: Brent Morrow, Swan Valley.
9 I'd just like to make a couple comments about the timber
10 cutting and wildlife habitat improvement and that. One
11 thing I see, maybe it's too general to discuss here, but
12 the clear-cutting, cutting against section lines and
13 stuff, that should never happen again. Those sections
14 should be feathered in and encouraged in the adjacent
15 private lands to protect view sheds, protect the edge
16 effects for wildlife habitat.

17 The vegetative management, I worked on the
18 district in the early '80s, worked on the timber fire
19 crew in Swan Lake district. We did some prescribed
20 burning, of course, unit burning, prep logging units.
21 But considerations for wildlife enhancement, we did
22 mechanical chain saw cutting of browse species by the
23 hundreds of acres the wildlife biologists had projects
24 there. That should be encouraged and incorporated in
25 your timber management planning and in your twenty-year

1 planning into the future.

2 And of course, a consideration for climate
3 change as we get more of these big fires, salvage cutting
4 should be figured into your annual cut, what you're
5 aiming to get as part of it, and try to not build
6 excessive roads in some of those salvage areas. Use
7 existing roads, maybe reopen, if we get some large fires
8 in the Valley.

9 I think just working together to look at the
10 big picture like Sharon was talking about, the wildlife
11 interest, the recreation are things that I'd like to see
12 in the forest planning process.

13 And on a site-specific basis we had commented
14 one of the objections that Mr. Wolfe put together, I kind
15 of dovetailed in on his interest. And he'll probably be
16 in later this week. But he had really good comments in
17 the Elk Creek drainage. That's a very important wildlife
18 corridor and fisheries habitat, is still relatively wild.
19 That should not be in intensive management in terms of
20 more increased cutting of the thermal cover, the timber
21 in there. But some wildlife enhancement in cutting those
22 browse species and simulated, you can implement
23 prescribed fire more in the Valley. Those projects are
24 good.

25 You could do some work up in the Piper Creek

1 Drainage. It's nice to see that, that thousand-acre burn
2 up in there for wildlife habitat. And continue to look
3 at the big picture, not just the timber, but we all need
4 the wood fiber and going forward use the best available
5 science via the climate change discussion and the
6 consideration for wildlife and recreation. I'd
7 appreciate it; thank you.

8 MS. MARTEN: And we do have on, I believe
9 it's Friday on the agenda, the Elk Creek. I actually was
10 out in the field earlier this week so I did get a better
11 feel for some of the objections and look forward to that
12 discussion. So thanks.

13 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Brent.

14 Kari, anything else? I'm just going to walk
15 right around here and see what we can catch.

16 DR. GUNDERSON: Well, a question I have is
17 why you don't think that the timber objective over a
18 twenty-year time frame goals and objectives could not be
19 achieved by giving consideration to the moderate
20 intensity logging versus the high intensity in the Swan
21 Valley?

22 MS. MARTEN: Appreciate that question. And
23 I think at this time versus getting into all the thought
24 rationale with that, one of the things that I will note
25 is that question. So what I hear from my role right now

1 listening to the objections is taking a little deeper
2 look at that, the MA designations between intensity and
3 moderate in Swan Valley and making sure Chip's draft
4 decision, how it is and going through that, can connect
5 all those dots. And if not, ask the question What is the
6 difference? So digging into that a little bit deeper on
7 that part of it.

8 DR. GUNDERSON: Thank you.

9 MS. TRIBE: So that would be a suggested
10 remedy, that you see if you can get the same output from
11 a moderate approach rather than the....

12 MS. MARTEN: Yeah. And one of the things,
13 just so you know, Kari, and if folks are wondering why
14 I'm not making any notes, obviously, we have the
15 transcript. But I've got a whole team of folks. And Ray
16 is noting -- if you notice he's over there and got it,
17 writing these things down. So it won't be forgotten. It
18 is being noted for me.

19 MS. TRIBE: Thanks, Leanne. For those
20 people who came in later, the court reporting that's
21 occurring here is recording the meeting verbatim so
22 nothing is lost; thank you.

23 Sharon, thank you for your comments.

24 MS. LAMAR: I'm good; thank you.

25 MS. TRIBE: Sir, would you say your name

1 again? Do you have a comment?

2 MR. ANDERSON: Kvande Anderson.

3 MS. TRIBE: Do you have a suggested remedy?
4 Do you have something to say that would add further
5 understanding about your objection.

6 MR. ANDERSON: I don't think we should rule
7 out high-intensive logging. Not because I want to log
8 everything in the Valley, but a fire will come through if
9 not in our time. And I think we should keep that
10 terminology in there just in case we need to use that for
11 timber instead of letting a resource go to waste after a
12 fire.

13 MS. TRIBE: Thank you. So that kind of
14 explanation would be useful for people to take; thank
15 you.

16 Say your name if you have a comment.

17 FROM THE FLOOR: No.

18 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

19 Paul, do you have anything else?

20 MR. MCKENZIE: Well, just a point of
21 clarification, this MA 6c topic is scheduled for Friday
22 morning, so we're going to continue this topic?

23 MS. MARTEN: Absolutely.

24 MR. MCKENZIE: I'll defer to it then.

25 MS. MARTEN: Yes, it's very specific on

1 Friday.

2 MS. TRIBE: Sonya, anything else?

3 MS. GERMANN: I might just add for the
4 record that DNRC -- I mean, our partnership with the
5 Forest Service is a high priority and we're putting a lot
6 of investment in that. So just something to take into
7 consideration when you're thinking about the remedy over
8 the budget constraint issue.

9 MS. MARTEN: Appreciate that.

10 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

11 Jerry, we're back. And I think the question
12 that you had, you referenced Sharon, but the question you
13 had was, is there a price that someone would be willing
14 to tolerate related to vegetation management if it
15 contributed to taking care of endangered species.

16 MR. O'NEIL: That was the question to be
17 asked.

18 MS. MARTEN: And I would, if I could,
19 suggest that that might be something -- because Sharon
20 said that she's confused on some of what you're
21 describing. And instead of taking the time right now,
22 that might be something that maybe the two of you could
23 visit a little bit with Jerry on the side.

24 I hear what you're saying as the bigger picture
25 though. So please don't mistake that I'm not hearing of

1 the bigger forest plan, the revision, the global cooling,
2 the climate change, endangered species, and the resources
3 from that standpoint and some of the rationale we may or
4 may not do more intensive management, my wording, not
5 yours, could be tied to species as well as multiple other
6 resources, and the bigger picture of the global cooling
7 perspective could be provided by more intensive
8 management.

9 MR. O'NEIL: Thank you. I've got another
10 question too.

11 MS. MARTEN: That's fine.

12 MR. O'NEIL: I'm curious as to why we do
13 prescribed burns without doing harvest of the boughs, the
14 Christmas trees, the rails, the posts, whatever we can do
15 to get some income and increase our budget the income off
16 that property before we do a prescribed burn on it. Why
17 do we let the merchantable timber be burned up? Maybe
18 the merchantable timber doesn't burn, isn't big enough to
19 be tolerant for fire. Why do we let the stuff that's
20 being burned up, why do we let it burn up instead of
21 being harvested and increase our budget so we have some
22 money to work on other things with.

23 MS. TRIBE: Do you want to talk about the
24 budget thing a little bit too?

25 MS. MARTEN: Sure.

1 So your question, Jerry, that you just brought
2 forward I wish I could give you a real simple answer.
3 Because there's a lot of complex ties that tie into it,
4 especially when you're looking on an entire Forest. So I
5 would say do we go out there and do prescribed burns and
6 burn up things that could bring us money? By any means
7 is that a plan decision? No. But it's also not as
8 simple as what may be the perception of what it looks
9 like we're doing. So I'd be happy to have myself or
10 others get into more detail and maybe even look at some
11 areas that you see as that way so we can get a better
12 feel on what you're seeing and what we may be missing on
13 that.

14 When it comes from the budget standpoint, when
15 I we say and when I'm referring to budget, there are
16 several different aspects of that. So we have a budget
17 allocated from Congress that we have that comes to, I'll
18 just say, the northern region, and that I allocate back
19 out to the various Forests, the Flathead obviously being
20 one out of ten in the region. So you have the fiscal
21 budget that comes from Congress that we're allocated.
22 There's other aspects of that where we work with a lot of
23 partnerships and we have some grants, we can look with
24 Good Neighbor Authorities with DNRC as an example to
25 enhance our capacity to do all sorts of work on the

1 ground.

2 We do have permits where we have boughs and
3 different aspects from that standpoint. But not
4 everything comes back -- number one, not everything comes
5 back locally. Absolutely the majority of money, if we do
6 have it, goes to the US Treasury. It does not come back
7 to the Flathead National Forest, even if it was generated
8 here. There's some exception with that with our
9 recreation fees and special authorities through Congress.
10 But the majority of our money, if we have money that
11 comes back in, it goes to the US Treasury. It does not
12 come back to site specifically to the northern region nor
13 to the Flathead National Forest. Again, there are some
14 exceptions with that, so I'm making this very simple
15 because there's different authorities and laws from
16 Congress where there's some nuances. But it's just not a
17 simple black and white from that perspective. That's why
18 I said I'd be happy to talk in more detail or get into
19 more specifics with you on the side because it varies
20 from that standpoint.

21 MR. O'NEIL: Well, I would like it if maybe
22 if you put it in the plan when you get the plan together.
23 But also, one of the questions is then when they say that
24 it costs the US Forest Service three dollars an acre to
25 manage the Forest is that because it's costing that much

1 to prepare a timber sale but they don't get the income
2 back off the timber sale? So the income's going to the
3 US Congress or US Government in Washington, D.C. and not
4 to the local Forest Service here?

5 MS. MARTEN: So you're talking about the
6 cost that went into the models when it came to the
7 economic side of that. And I'm going to look at Joe real
8 quick if maybe if there's anything specific there. Joe
9 just walked in. So here's what I can do, Jerry. The
10 costs that went into the model, no, it's not as simple
11 because, first of all, nothing goes back to Congress or
12 the government in Washington. It goes to the US Treasury
13 on that part of it which is just that, it's the US
14 Treasury. So what costs went into and were included in
15 the models and the unit costs we're doing in a timber
16 sale, we can walk through that with you because there's
17 various things that we pulled into the model. Keep in
18 mind the model is just that. It's a model to help us
19 disclose and look at things from one perspective. It's
20 not an end-all of everything. So when it came to the
21 three dollars, I'd have to look that up, quite honestly,
22 and look at the analysis and how that model defined that
23 to be able to answer specifically what went into that,
24 where that number came from. We will have some folks
25 that can do that from the team or we can definitely get

1 folks connected with you to answer detailed questions on
2 those costs on that. But no, it's not because everything
3 goes back to Congress.

4 MR. O'NEIL: I appreciate that if you could
5 do it in writing so I could take and look at it.

6 MS. TRIBE: So Jerry, I'm wondering just
7 because I want to see if there are any comments from the
8 other folks that have just been observing as well, and
9 pretty soon we'll get close to the eleven o'clock time.
10 So I'm wondering if Joe, you might be willing to spend
11 five minutes or so with Jerry when we break.

12 MR. KRUEGER: Okay.

13 MS. TRIBE: And if you would be able to
14 write down or talk with him about the questions you'd
15 like answered on that so that -- he said he'd like that
16 back in writing so that we could get that set up so maybe
17 that will happen.

18 And then the other thing I want to make sure is
19 that what I hear your suggestion about the plan is that
20 people have an understanding of why you choose a certain
21 kind of treatment over another one. For example, why
22 would you do prescribed burning rather than some amount
23 of harvest. And that that might be -- you're wondering
24 why that isn't better explained.

25 MR. O'NEIL: I don't think they heard me

1 right.

2 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

3 MR. O'NEIL: My question was why do we
4 do -- or when we do prescribed burning, why don't we take
5 the harvestable items out there first, the merchantable
6 poles, posts, timber, whatever we can do, without
7 degrading the object of the result from the prescribed
8 burning. Why do we throw that stuff away or up into the
9 pollution in the CO2 in the atmosphere, or wherever it
10 goes, rather than -- why don't we put that on a truck and
11 take it down and sell it and get some money so we have
12 more money for the timber management or Forest
13 management.

14 MS. TRIBE: Thanks for the clarification.
15 I did hear you wrong; thank you.

16 MS. MARTEN: And then we had Pete on the
17 phone. Pete, did you have anything else you wanted to
18 make sure to put into the room at this time?

19 MR. NELSON: Thank you. Only just an
20 observation on the conversation. I think it's very
21 interesting. But what I observe is that the forest plan
22 and Leanne in the ROD or elsewhere, you could describe
23 how implementation decisions are actually made. I mean,
24 people are expressing concern with seeing a management
25 area designation and then the Forest Service is saying

1 Well, we're not actually going to implement it as you are
2 interpreting it, you know, adjacent to your house or
3 whatnot.

4 So you know, this is one of the concerns that
5 we have with broadly-described programmatic forest plan
6 is they don't give you a good sense of where
7 implementation actions are going to happen necessarily
8 and under what conditions. So I think there's probably
9 room for discussion somewhere in the record on how
10 implementation is going to occur. You're suggesting, of
11 course, that there will be subsequent decisions made at
12 the project level. And I think anyone reading a forest
13 plan wants to understand how that's going to occur and
14 where that's going to occur and how areas are going to be
15 prioritized for veg treatment or other activities. So
16 that's just an observation from someone who's looked at a
17 lot of different forest plans. So thank you.

18 MS. MARTEN: Thanks, Pete.

19 MS. TRIBE: Thanks, Pete.

20 So if there aren't other comments at the table,
21 I'm going to try to wrap the observers into this last
22 sort of exercise. And Timory, you said you'd be willing,
23 if we had any comments, to put them on the flip chart.

24 So first of all, for folks at the table, those
25 of you who came to the table with standing, do you have

1 any observations about the process, about what happened
2 here among you? Remember you're our first one out of the
3 chute. Any observations? Any comments?

4 MS. LAMAR: I'll share.

5 MS. TRIBE: Please, Sharon.

6 MS. LAMAR: It's good to hear all the
7 voices. It's good to hear all the stakeholders.

8 MS. TRIBE: That was helpful to you?

9 MS. LAMAR: Yes.

10 MS. TRIBE: Kari.

11 DR. GUNDERSON: I think it's critical to
12 have you professionally facilitated. We'd like to have
13 you come down to the Swan Valley --

14 MS. TRIBE: Oh, Kari, you know I've been
15 there.

16 DR. GUNDERSON: -- for our community
17 meetings.

18 MS. TRIBE: So having the process
19 facilitated is useful. Okay.

20 Other comments?

21 MR. MORROW: Facilitate locally, I'll just
22 add to what she said, and really make an effort to
23 educate the folks about the importance of fire-dependent
24 ecosystems and the diversity and stuff that they help
25 maintain. And then as Mr. O'Neil discussed, wherever you

1 can, try to salvage. I worked on a lot of those units.
2 And you see that pole-size stuff go up in smoke. And you
3 know that it's not always cost effective, it doesn't
4 pencil out on a large operation with lots of equipment.
5 But anytime you can take those materials and utilize
6 them.

7 We got folks making furniture, still building
8 cabins. They can get a log here and there and salvage
9 and firewood for the locals that's close to that gate.
10 If they can get in there and move some of that firewood,
11 it's really important. And public relations for the
12 Forest Service to show them that you care and that you
13 try to implement that wherever you can.

14 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Brent.

15 If there aren't any other comments at the
16 table, are there any comments from the observers? Do the
17 observers observe anything?

18 Please, Mike.

19 MS. MARTEN: Yeah, Mike Anderson.

20 MR. ANDERSON: Mike Anderson from
21 Wilderness Society. And I was also a member of the
22 Federal Advisory Committee that Pete Nelson referred to.
23 We were the two environmental representatives out of a
24 committee of 21. It was very diverse.

25 This is the kind of -- there was some

1 discussion, I thought, regarding the timber objective.
2 And we did make recommendations about that including some
3 just about two months ago. I hope those have made their
4 way to the Flathead because I think they are relevant,
5 especially in the shared -- we called them shared
6 stewardship recommendations. We specifically addressed
7 the Good Neighbor Authority as a way in which state
8 governments can add capacity to the Forest Service's
9 ability to implement plans specifically for timber
10 harvest. So I hope you will look at that.

11 Just an observation is that this plan started
12 in 2012, I guess it was. And I don't think the Good
13 Neighbor Authority was really available to the Forest
14 Service until 2014.

15 MS. MARTEN: Twenty fourteen.

16 MR. ANDERSON: So it's an example of how
17 the world keeps moving; right? There's new policies,
18 there's new funding sources. So I hope that -- we are
19 very close to the end of the planning process. But
20 perhaps this objection discussion is one way in which new
21 information can be brought in to the planning process,
22 even at a very late date. But not to change the
23 management allocations or the wilderness recommendations
24 but in terms of resolving an issue over what's the
25 appropriate objective for timber harvest and how do you

1 look at the planning rules requirement that you have to
2 stay within the Forest Service's budget.

3 But our advisory committee was to say Well,
4 let's look at other potential sources of implementation
5 capacity like Good Neighbor Authority. And it seems to
6 me that that might be one way in which, through this
7 objection process, that some clarification and some added
8 language that would address this new opportunity that
9 really is being presented in Montana for good use of Good
10 Neighbor Authority to add the Forest Service's capacity
11 to do more implementation. And as Pete said, we'd like
12 to see it even-handed, not just for the timber but for
13 restoration work as well if there are other sources of
14 funding or partnerships that can be developed. You have
15 the Whitefish Range Partnership, and they've got a lot of
16 ideas they'd like to see implemented. I don't know if
17 they're all reflected in the plan. But maybe if there
18 are ways to look at other partnerships in addition to
19 Good Neighbor Authority that would be maybe sort of a
20 theme that could go into the record of decision that
21 would be somewhat -- I know there's partnership planned
22 components in the final plan, which is good. But maybe
23 that could be built upon in your final record of
24 decision.

25 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Mike; thank you.

1 Any other comments from observers related to
2 the timber issue?

3 Well, we made it. We made it through one. So
4 it's interesting to me that the discussion also, in
5 addition to the things that first started with you, Paul,
6 about suggested remedies in actual changes, there were
7 several comments about how language can lead to sort of
8 an agreement on things as well. So if you two have any
9 final words then we'll break until 11:00.

10 MS. MARTEN: I would just like to say thank
11 you. Many of you, I know, will be here through various
12 other topics and will continue along the same process,
13 but it will be dynamic based on the topic, the number of
14 people at the table and different ways of doing this. So
15 I appreciate your patience, your suggestions and, most
16 importantly, just bringing your voice to the table. Very
17 helpful for me from that standpoint. And I just look
18 forward to the rest of today and the next couple days.
19 So thank you, and I guess we'll take a break and we'll
20 start the other one, jobs and economy --

21 MS. TRIBE: At 11:00.

22 MS. MARTEN: -- at 11:00 on that. So
23 again, if you're in the room and you're an objector on
24 jobs and economy or an interested party, please come up
25 to the table at this time. And then we will also see who

1 else may be joining in on the phone. And then we will
2 start at 11:00 on that. So thanks.

3 (Proceedings in recess from 10:43 a.m. to
4 11:03 a.m.)

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1 Wednesday, April 11, 2018 - 11:03 a.m.

2 JOBS AND INCOME

3 MS. TRIBE: Do we have anyone calling in on
4 jobs and income as an objector or an interested party?
5 I'm going to ask again, is there someone on the phone
6 calling in as an objector or an interested party for jobs
7 and income?

8 MR. OLSEN: Hello, I'm Lance Olsen. I'm an
9 objector.

10 MS. MARTEN: Good morning.

11 MS. TRIBE: I'm an old woman with a bad
12 ear. Lance Olsen?

13 MS. MARTEN: Yes.

14 Anyone else on the phone as an objector or
15 interested party for jobs and income, besides Mr. Olsen?

16 ON THE PHONE: No, but one thing on the
17 phone, it seems like your volume has been turned down.
18 We're having a hard time hearing you guys.

19 MS. MARTEN: Sorry. Is this better? Was
20 that a little bit better now?

21 ON THE PHONE: It was great the first
22 session, so I don't know what's going on.

23 MS. MARTEN: Good to know. We will
24 continue to work on it, so thank you.

25 MR. OLSEN: I'm hearing you okay.

1 MS. MARTEN: Well, good morning, everyone,
2 and thank you for joining us here this morning. So this
3 topic that's on the agenda is jobs and income. And I
4 know we have Mr. Olsen on the phone as an objector, and
5 then sitting at the table in the room here I will let,
6 well, Paul and Sonya introduce Paul and Sonya.

7 So Paul, you want to go first, please.

8 MR. MCKENZIE: Sure. Paul McKenzie,
9 F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company, interested party.

10 MS. GERMANN: Sonya Germann, DNRC,
11 interested party.

12 MS. MARTEN: So both Paul and Sonya are
13 interested parties on that.

14 So similar to the last topic that we had, we
15 have sent out electronically the briefing papers for this
16 topic. So hopefully, Mr. Olsen, you have one in front of
17 you. And I know folks in the room here do. I'm going to
18 just not read through the briefing paper but summarize my
19 understanding of the main objection and topic under jobs
20 and income that I wanted to open a dialogue on this
21 morning. We have an hour on the agenda. If it takes
22 that long, that's just fine. And if not, that's okay
23 too, from that perspective.

24 There may be some other things underneath this
25 topic similar to the last one that we talked about that

1 if we have time that people want to bring to the table as
2 well. And then joining us at the table is Jerry O'Neil.

3 And Mr. O'Neil, were you an objector or
4 interested party on this topic?

5 MR. O'NEIL: I believe I'm an objector. I
6 objected to most everything, I guess.

7 MS. MARTEN: Okay; good to know. I know we
8 have Mr. Olsen on the phone who is an objector as well.

9 So I'll summarize the overall issue in my words
10 that I understood with this one. And the main one was
11 concern about how the forest plan is addressing for jobs
12 and income employment for low-income and depressed
13 communities and counties. In addition, there is concern
14 that we did not take a hard look at or have an
15 alternative that actually results in an increase in labor
16 income and jobs in these areas. Nor -- and then a second
17 point -- so there's two points. So that was one.

18 The second one was concern that the final
19 Environmental Impact Statement and the analysis that was
20 summarized in that Impact Statement does not provide
21 analysis that includes ecosystem restoration on that part
22 of it and how that ties into the jobs portion.

23 So I'm actually going to start with that one
24 and work backwards. Because one of the things that I
25 will say, my understanding in looking at this and working

1 with the team and particularly with our economists that
2 worked on this analysis, is we did have some
3 misunderstanding and we did have some errors in a couple
4 of the wordings that went out with the draft with the
5 term "restoration."

6 So one of the things that we're looking at is
7 how we may be able to clarify with the model and the
8 economic analysis that was done. Restoration was
9 definitely included. Restoration activity was definitely
10 included in that analysis. Using that terminology, it
11 was not using that term and it's not real clear. So
12 we're looking at ways to clarify where and how it was
13 used in the analysis. So it's not correct that it wasn't
14 used, however, I can understand where there was a
15 perception that it wasn't part of that analysis.

16 So that's something that I'm going to be
17 working with Chip and folks on to help clarify that part
18 with how restoration activities were definitely included
19 in the economic analysis, the modeling and the
20 quantitative and qualitative part that was disclosed in
21 the EIS from that. So I'll pause on that if there's
22 questions on that or if I misunderstood what the
23 objection was regarding that. Okay; I'll take that as a
24 no on that part of it.

25 So I'll move on to the other part of the

1 objection and that is, again, my words a broad summary,
2 concern that we did not take into account and have an
3 alternative that looked at increasing the number of jobs
4 in the income within depressed communities, counties or,
5 I'll just say, the communities and the counties that
6 encompass and are influenced by activities on the
7 Flathead National Forest, from that standpoint.

8 I did not see any potential remedies, and I
9 might have missed them. So please let me know if I
10 missed them. But that's one of the things I need some
11 help with is to have some dialogue on how folks would see
12 that we could meet that concern, if there's something you
13 saw that we missed, or how that would look to you to be
14 able to show where that was part, and it definitely is
15 part, of the decision Chip's making as the social and
16 economic side of it. But the objection implies that it's
17 not clear. So I'm looking for some help there. Did I
18 understand the objection, first of all, accurately and,
19 if so, how would you propose that we help remedy from
20 that perspective?

21 MS. TRIBE: Part of our difficulty here is
22 that the people who filed the objections are mostly not
23 here. People who are here are mostly interested parties.
24 And so you may not have people here who can respond to
25 your question.

1 MS. MARTEN: And Mr. Olsen, I believe you
2 filed as an objector, and these may or may not be part of
3 your objection points. So maybe, if I can inquire with
4 you, if you don't mind, your thoughts on that or if
5 there's something else that I missed that, from your
6 perspective, that would be very helpful.

7 Are you there, Mr. Olsen, and may be off on me?

8 MR. OLSEN: Mine is very simple. To the
9 degree that the conifers are at risk, then the jobs
10 associated with the conifers are at risk. And that risk
11 needs to be recognized and reported. There's an economic
12 risk that's not being recognized.

13 MS. MARTEN: Okay; thank you. So just
14 paraphrasing back what I just heard you say is clarity in
15 how and recognition that with the conifers at risk and
16 the jobs that are associated with the risk -- with the
17 conifers as at risk and the associated jobs, logging,
18 vegetation management, that side of it, recognizing that
19 and how it does tie into the income and jobs for
20 communities.

21 MR. OLSEN: I think it's pretty important
22 because the whole issue of jobs is very important and
23 you're implying that there's a future for jobs. And
24 under historic conditions, that would be true. But now
25 there's some new conditions that put the conifers at risk

1 and, therefore, put the jobs associated with those
2 conifers at risk. So that has importance to the
3 community at large and certainly to labor.

4 MS. MARTEN: Great thanks.

5 So interested parties, thoughts on that;
6 comments?

7 MR. MCKENZIE: This is Paul McKenzie. I'll
8 give you perspective, Leanne. You know, under
9 alternative D, which was by some considered the
10 high-management alternative, you have a 2.4 million-acre
11 Forest and about 430,000 acres of suitable timber base.
12 So we're talking less than 20 percent of the acres that's
13 considered. The preferred alternative, alternative B
14 modified with the PTSQ of 27 million feet, just a little
15 perspective on what that means.

16 I just left my own contractors' meeting this
17 morning to be here with you today. So 125 logging
18 contractors sitting in the room. We have another 125
19 direct employees. We put about 32 million dollars' worth
20 of income annually into our local economy. That volume
21 would not run our mill for more than seven months; okay?
22 And we're not the only game in town. You have two other
23 larger factory -- or three others in the area of other
24 folks that are interested.

25 So when you look at the question, the question

1 you look at is do you look at an alternative that
2 maximizes the support for communities and economies?
3 Even at the highest level of management proposed, it
4 still, it could be argued, that it's lower than what the
5 maximum potential for the Forest is. Obviously, there's
6 a lot of constraints and a lot of reasons why they went
7 out there. I don't think that the Forest did a bad job
8 of explaining the economics. But if you go back to the
9 question that's being asked, the point being made that
10 there was not an alternative that would best support the
11 economics of the community, and that includes the
12 recreation and tourism as well, speaking just from the
13 timber standpoint, you could certainly see where that
14 point of view could be supported by the range of
15 alternatives that was considered.

16 MS. MARTEN: So Paul, let me ask you this.
17 Do you have suggestions on how that would look, knowing
18 that there's certain things that we are constrained
19 within laws and regulations.

20 MR. MCKENZIE: I think in your EIS I think
21 there's some elements of that. You talk about capacity
22 of the -- once again, my comments are limited to the
23 timber because that's what I know. You talk about the
24 capacity, you talk about the current production levels,
25 you know, that are in there. I'm not sure how

1 you -- it's not an easy one because the need is greater
2 than the availability of what you can offer, I guess.
3 But maybe disclosing some of the constraints that you're
4 operating under more clearly, in recognizing the economic
5 impacts of those, is maybe the best you can do in this
6 document. I don't know.

7 MS. MARTEN: That's fair.

8 Sonya or --

9 MR. OLSEN: I hear that concern about
10 reported economic impact, I just come at it from a
11 different point of view. It's not merely that the amount
12 of volume harvested will have an economic impact
13 but -- while I agree the amount of volume harvested will
14 have an economic impact. But the amount of volume
15 harvestable in the future is questionable. You may get
16 away with current plans through the next ten to fifteen
17 years. But some interesting things are going to be
18 happening between now and then and beyond, and those will
19 certainly affect mills. I mean, if it is true, and I
20 think that it's plausible, that the economically
21 important conifer species are at some risk then, of
22 course, the mills are at risk. And that would be another
23 concern to add on. I understand from a mill owner's
24 perspective that they might want more to process in order
25 to stay in operation. But that operation also depends on

1 the existence of those trees and that existence itself is
2 open to question.

3 MS. MARTEN: So thank you. And I guess one
4 of the things, do you have -- do you have a suggestion on
5 how to display that, disclose that in the analysis and in
6 the forest plan? Do you have something that you would
7 propose we would do differently on how to articulate that
8 and have that, your very valid point, be more clear?

9 MR. OLSEN: I would say, just in the final
10 plan and in the record of decision, give 500 words to
11 describing the scenario, a plausible scenario, in which
12 economically important conifer species are at risk and
13 that will have economic implications.

14 MS. MARTEN: Okay.

15 MR. OLSEN: And I've provided a number of
16 documents that I suggest you use to compose that
17 statement of risk.

18 MS. MARTEN: Thank you; very helpful. And
19 I do know we received in your objection those documents.
20 So thank you.

21 So other thoughts, other things either along
22 the same line or just other things with jobs and income
23 that folks -- and I realize that some objectors are not
24 at the table. So there's some of this that we don't have
25 the benefit of their insight right now during the

1 dialogue. But other thoughts, other things?

2 Go ahead, Jerry.

3 MR. O'NEIL: This doesn't have to do with
4 logging but I'm interested in -- I attended some meetings
5 with the Gateway to Glacier business group or community
6 group or whatever they are. And they're interested in
7 shoulder-season jobs and they're interested in tourist
8 jobs. And it's like several members of them
9 are -- worked on river guides. They would like -- some
10 of the motel owners would like to be able to take their
11 guests out and take them up to Hungry Horse Reservoir so
12 they can go fishing. Right now, they're forbidden from
13 doing that because they don't have a guide license. All
14 they want to do is drop them off there. And also a lot
15 of them would like to have more ability for people to use
16 bicycles in the Forest.

17 Right now, I think we've got the wilderness for
18 horseback riding, and I don't want to curtail that or
19 open up -- I might want to but I'm not advocating opening
20 up the wilderness for bicycle riding. But what I'm
21 advocating for is rather than create any more new
22 wilderness, we'll take the wilderness study areas and
23 rather than turn them into wilderness, if we're going to
24 turn them into anything, let's turn them into a
25 recreational Forest area which will allow bicycle riding.

1 Because right now, you have very few tourists coming
2 from -- we have like a couple million people coming
3 through Glacier Park every year and very few of them have
4 a horse trailer. But a whole lot of them have a bicycle
5 strapped to the back of their car and they would like to
6 ride them in the Forest, and that would create more jobs
7 for our locals if we allowed them to do that.

8 So rather than make any more wilderness, let's
9 make the more recreational forest areas to allow bicycle
10 riding. And then we could save some money if we'd allow
11 them to use mechanical means to make and improve the
12 trails or maintain the trails in that area. And also,
13 let's don't put them under the restriction that's going
14 to be forever and ever. Let's make that recreational
15 wilderness area, recreational area, for like a
16 twenty-year plan. But at the end of that we might want
17 to change that to allow something else to use that area.
18 Or maybe don't allow as much or whatever. But just don't
19 put all the restraints we have on wilderness areas in
20 order to make it a little more flexible.

21 MS. MARTEN: Appreciate that. And a couple
22 things. With the wilderness this afternoon, we will be
23 talking, and I know it's on the agenda, so my guess is
24 you'll be sitting at the table for that one as well and
25 many other people as well. And that does tie into, I

1 know, much of the discussion around recommended
2 wilderness from that perspective. So I'm not ignoring
3 those by any means, but some of that will bleed over into
4 the dialogue.

5 The other thing is what you just outlined and
6 described, I can tell you is something that across the
7 Forest Service but definitely here on the Flathead was
8 very much a key part of this forest plan revision. And
9 some of the things that are changes in it that people
10 have different views on and different values around
11 focus, recreation areas and what that means or doesn't
12 mean, was a critical part throughout the process.

13 I'm not saying that everything is where
14 everybody's totally a hundred percent satisfied, but the
15 tourists and the economy and the income and the jobs was
16 all definitely a part of that. So really appreciate you
17 bringing that to the table. Because that's definitely
18 part of it.

19 Again, I'm not saying everybody agrees or is in
20 line. But I do know that some of the economic analysis
21 that was done definitely included those types of incomes
22 and those types of jobs in addition to some of the ones
23 where we retained receipts like with some timber and
24 mining and grazing and that. But included some jobs for
25 tourist industry and hotels and that type of thing. And

1 I'm looking over here to get verification from Jordan.
2 He joined the team over here. I'm sorry; I should have
3 introduced Jordan. He's one of our regional economists
4 that worked with the team very closely on this part of
5 it. So I know with working with Jordan and the team
6 those things were included from that perspective. So I
7 appreciate you bringing that forward.

8 MR. O'NEIL: I know it doesn't say it on
9 the paper here, but I thought maybe we could include it
10 on it.

11 MS. MARTEN: No, appreciate it. And again,
12 the briefing papers -- and that's a very good point.
13 I'll just remind folks that may not have been here
14 earlier. The briefing papers were just put together to
15 start a dialogue. It, by all means, was not trying to
16 put everything on the briefing papers. Because I might
17 as well have given you guys the thousands of pages of
18 objections to read. And I don't think anybody was going
19 to want to do that. So we just tried to get it so we
20 could spark the dialogue. Thank you.

21 MS. TRIBE: So Jerry, you helped us think
22 about the fact that when we talk about jobs and income
23 we're not just talking about mills and timber; that there
24 are a lot of other things. And that the Forest has some
25 input and some ability to do something about some of

1 those. Doesn't about guides but does about some things.

2 MR. O'NEIL: The people in the Canyon would
3 really appreciate that.

4 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

5 Any other comments from the table? Lance, do
6 you have any other comments?

7 MR. OLSEN: I just hope that the documents
8 I submitted will speak to the Forest Service as well as
9 they spoke to me.

10 MS. MARTEN: Appreciate that. And I can
11 tell you, Lance, that we do review all those documents
12 and definitely take a hard look at those. And I'm
13 looking over at the team, which you don't have the
14 opportunity to look at, and they're all nodding with
15 their thumbs up that they are definitely taking a look at
16 those and taking them seriously, so thank you.

17 MR. OLSEN: You're welcome.

18 MS. TRIBE: Well, some people like an early
19 lunch.

20 Are there any comments from the observers --

21 MS. MARTEN: From the observers.

22 MS. TRIBE: -- relating to this topic?

23 Mike has something. Do we have a microphone
24 for Mike if we could, please?

25 Thank you, Sonya.

1 MR. ANDERSON: Mike Anderson, Wilderness
2 Society. Again, the Federal Advisory Committee spent
3 quite a bit of time on the issue of jobs, income,
4 socioeconomic effects of the plans, particularly with
5 respect to monitoring, the monitoring and evaluation. We
6 recognized that the 2012 planning rule was kind of weak
7 on the monitoring requirements for socioeconomic
8 sustainability. And we made a number of recommendations
9 which I think have been reasonably well incorporated into
10 the Flathead plan. I can't remember exactly what you
11 said about monitoring and socioeconomics, but I recall
12 that there was some inclusion of that.

13 But it seems like there is still probably
14 opportunity, even at this late stage, for the record of
15 decision to emphasize the role that jobs and income can
16 play in the ongoing monitoring and evaluation, kind of
17 relates to, I think, our earlier discussion about the
18 timber target, the timber objectives, the role of the
19 Good Neighbor Authority that as year to year we're going
20 to be seeing changes in the Forest Service's capacity,
21 appropriations, Good Neighbor Authority and that those
22 income and job-related changes can and should be
23 reflected in the Forest Service's monitoring and
24 evaluation work potentially even to amend the forest
25 plan, to amend the objective for timber if there is -- or

1 amend it for an ongoing Good Neighbor Authority program,
2 something along those lines. But I just wanted to note
3 that the monitoring evaluation part of the planning rule,
4 I think, is one way in which this jobs and income issue
5 could be meaningfully addressed.

6 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

7 Any other comments from observers?

8 Brent, please.

9 MR. MORROW: I would just say a couple
10 things on this. More analysis into the amount of jobs
11 that can be available in the Forest based on the existing
12 timber that's there as is adjusted for large wildfire
13 occurrences, that kind of thing, automation in the field.
14 It seems like one of the things that still causes
15 polarization down in the Swan Valley and elsewhere on the
16 Forest and across the northwest is this expectation that
17 the resource extraction of thirty, forty years ago should
18 still supply the same amount of jobs. And some people
19 never get over that.

20 More clarification as to exactly what we have
21 to cut and what we have to leave for thermal cover for
22 wildlife, adjacent wilderness boundary areas up against
23 wilderness and that kind of thing, needs to be clarified
24 on an ongoing basis. And certainly in a plan like this
25 going forward a readjustment of the cost benefit analysis

1 as to the deficit timber sales and things and what can
2 actually -- what we can actually provide in jobs and
3 income.

4 When we get 125 contractors together, for
5 instance, in a meeting and the expectations of the next
6 year, five, ten, twenty years out that explain that we
7 just don't have these jobs, it's an ever evolving economy
8 and the Forest Service is vital to really show the public
9 what we have. And as it changes, we get a Rice Ridge
10 Fire in the Valley on north this year and we have to
11 salvage some and we don't have anything left to cut based
12 on other interests for a lot of years, we need to explain
13 that and let people move on. Let the economy evolve.
14 Let the governor get involved and have economic
15 diversification for the Valley and places that provide
16 jobs and show that we just don't have those jobs to
17 provide. We don't have the wood to cut, the fiber to get
18 out. It's not there. We have many other considerations.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

21 Any other comments from the observers?

22 Thank you.

23 MS. MARTEN: So I'll just say thank you.

24 Obviously this was a lot shorter than we thought it might
25 be, but that's okay too. An opportunity it did help

1 clarify. And I know if other things come up, some of
2 this will be bleeding over to other topics over this
3 afternoon and over the next couple days because this is,
4 like everything in the plan, they're all connected from
5 that perspective. So appreciate you taking the time out.
6 I think we're breaking for lunch. So we do have a little
7 bit longer, and we start --

8 MS. TRIBE: At 1:30.

9 MS. MARTEN: -- at 1:30 with recommended
10 wilderness being our next topic on the agenda for this
11 afternoon.

12 For some of you I'll give you a heads up.
13 There's going to be a little bit of repeat on some
14 introduction stuff, because we anticipate I will see many
15 other faces entering the room after lunch this afternoon,
16 just based on the number of objections and the topic. So
17 we'll have to repeat a little bit of the process stuff.
18 So I'd just ask you to bear with us for those folks who
19 have been here all morning with a little bit of
20 repetition to ensure that we bring people along in the
21 processes on that.

22 Otherwise, we'll see folks that are joining us
23 this afternoon at 1:30.

24 And for those of you that won't be coming back
25 again, thank you very much for your valuable time and

1 input.

2 And thank you for those on the phone. We'll be
3 disconnecting and reconnecting here for our topic by
4 1:30. So thank you.

5 MR. OLSEN: Thank you for this opportunity.

6 MS. MARTEN: You're very welcome.

7 MS. TRIBE: Have a good lunch.

8 (Proceedings in recess from 11:31 a.m. to
9 1:30 p.m.)

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1 Wednesday, April 11, 2018 - 1:30 p.m.

2 RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS

3 MS. TRIBE: Some of you were here this
4 morning, a few of you for one or the other sections we
5 did, and some of you weren't. So if you were here this
6 morning, just bear with us while we sort of go through
7 the introductory part again for those of you who are just
8 here for this afternoon.

9 And so Chip's going to start, then Leanne, then
10 I'm going to tell you how we're going to do this, give
11 you a couple ground rules, see who's calling in, and then
12 we'll do introductions and then we'll get started; okay?

13 MR. WEBER: Welcome, everyone. Is it
14 coming through the mic okay? Well, I'm going to repeat
15 some of what I said this morning as well because we've
16 got new folks.

17 So first of all, I'm Chip Weber. I'm the
18 Forest supervisor on the Flathead and the deciding
19 officer on the plan. This is Leanne Marten, my boss, the
20 regional forester, and she is the responding official for
21 the objections for the part of this that I'm signing and
22 the deciding official on species of environmental
23 concern. And she'll talk more later about what all that
24 means in terms of what she wants to accomplish in this
25 meeting.

1 Just real quickly, some safety things. If
2 there should be a fire or something like that, please use
3 these exits and get out to the road and gather together
4 so that we can sort of check to make sure everybody's
5 okay. Restrooms, if you go out the door and to your
6 left, they're just after you cross sort of a threshold
7 off to your left there.

8 So I ask that you -- maybe you said this
9 already, Ginny, but ask that you turn your cell phones
10 off, put them on stun or whatever you need to do to treat
11 each other well in this.

12 I'm going to only talk really briefly, but I
13 want you to know that I've gone into this week from a
14 place of curiosity. You know, I've read the objections,
15 talked a lot about the objections with our folks who are
16 on the team, and I'm really looking forward to what I can
17 learn and really cognizant that this is another
18 opportunity to make the decision and the analysis that
19 goes along with it to make it better. So this is -- I'm
20 really here seeking understanding. I probably won't be
21 talking a whole lot except to answer questions or to
22 explain things, but I just really have my listening ears
23 on.

24 So I want to thank you all for what you've done
25 to date. I see a lot of faces in this room that have

1 been pulling hard on the oars with us for some time. And
2 it's been an effort, and I appreciated the participation,
3 the collaboration, the work that you all have done to get
4 us to this point. So I'm looking forward to the
5 discussion today and the rest of the week and really in a
6 place of learning. So thank you from the bottom of my
7 heart for the work that you've done. And I'll turn it to
8 Leanne. Oh, introduce the team. I had done that once
9 but I guess we need to do that again.

10 MS. TRIBE: We're just learning. It's our
11 first day.

12 MR. WEBER: So we have the team that worked
13 on the plan revision and some assistance from our
14 regional Washington offices. I'm going to ask those
15 folks to each stand up and introduce themselves. A lot
16 of you know who they are, but so that you can put a name
17 with a face.

18 MR. KRUEGER: Hi, all, Joe Krueger, Forest
19 planner team leader.

20 MS. MOORE: Hello, I'm Marsha Moore,
21 recreation wilderness planner on the team.

22 MS. TRECHSEL: Heidi Trechsel, vegetation
23 specialist on the team.

24 MR. SMITH: Raymond Smith, in charge of
25 objections and litigation in the regional office in

1 Missoula.

2 MS. RUSHO: Nancy Rusho, in charge of
3 administrator review objections in the Washington office
4 for the FCC.

5 MR. VAN EIMEREN: Good afternoon. I'm Pat
6 Van Eimeren. I'm the fish biologist on the team.

7 MS. AKE: Afternoon. I'm Kathy Ake. I'm
8 the GIS specialist on the team.

9 MS. MARTEN: And we have a few other people
10 over here.

11 MS. ALLEN: I'm Stacy Allen. I'm the
12 writer/editor for the plan division team.

13 MS. PEEL: I'm Timory Peel. I'm the
14 regional planner for the north region.

15 MS. MARTEN: And I know we have Rob in the
16 back.

17 MR. CARLIN: Rob Carlin, staff officer of
18 the Flathead Forest resources planning and fire division.

19 MS. MARTEN: Great. Thank you, everyone,
20 and thanks, Chip. As Chip said, good afternoon. I'm
21 Leanne Marten. I'm the northern region regional
22 forester. And for this process, I'm the reviewing
23 officer for the objections on the forest plan for the
24 Flathead. So I really appreciate everyone being here
25 today and taking time, not only today as Chip said, but

1 throughout the process. I know you have all been very
2 much involved over the last several years, very
3 passionate and very much have ownership on what goes on
4 on your public lands that we have the privilege and honor
5 to manage on your behalf, so thank you.

6 I'm going to talk a little bit about the
7 process. For those of you who were here this morning, it
8 will be a little bit repetitive. But we have a lot of
9 folks throughout today and the next two days that are
10 going to be coming and going. And so we have
11 approximately 74 objectors that wrote in anywhere from a
12 couple pages to one page to hundreds of pages on issues
13 that they have with the revised and the draft revised
14 plan for the Flathead.

15 And just a little bit about the process of
16 where we got where we're at for today and for the next
17 couple days is we took a hard look at all of those
18 objections and all the issues with them. And part of my
19 role is I will be responding to every one of those
20 issues. And every one that was an objector will receive
21 a letter from me in the near future. You will not see
22 necessarily verbatim every issue brought up, because some
23 of them are very similar. So we're going through a
24 process to help us group them where we can. And where
25 they're unique, they'll be set aside as a unique issue.

1 But even though they may not be part of the dialogue
2 today or over the next couple days, I just want to let
3 you know that I have been reading through the objections,
4 I've had a whole team, many of them here, including
5 people that didn't have anything to do with the revision
6 process from outside the region, take a really hard look
7 at everything you guys submitted to see where the issues
8 landed, how we may or may not have addressed it, where we
9 may have missed some things where we can improve on the
10 decision and how we're moving forward to have, as well,
11 supported a decision and management on the Forest as we
12 can from all of the owners.

13 So as we go through today, I'll probably say
14 this a couple times at a couple different versions, just
15 remembering that even if it's not being talked about,
16 please don't think that it's not being heard.

17 The other thing, and the other reason I bring
18 that up is part of today and the intent is really not for
19 you to reiterate what you did submit in writing. I'm
20 familiar with the objections. I'm going to summarize
21 some of the things that I think I understand. If I
22 misunderstand, by all means, please let's have some
23 discussion on that. But I don't need to take the time of
24 everybody here for you to just walk through everything
25 you objected to because I do have, I think, a good feel

1 for that and I do have some questions on that. And
2 again, if you feel like I'm missing something, please
3 bring it up from that standpoint.

4 But today's really to start working through on
5 some of the objections, and of course this afternoon is
6 recommended wilderness, have a dialogue among yourself as
7 objectors and some of you as interested parties on,
8 really, how we can move forward with some of the issues
9 that you brought up.

10 Now, you guys know, and this topic
11 particularly, is -- much of it is values. And I'm not
12 here to ask any of you to change your values. I would
13 never do that for anyone. I respect every one of your
14 values. And some of you have very different and opposing
15 values, if you think about wilderness. And if you look
16 at the briefing paper, that becomes evident really quick.
17 Some of you said We don't want any more recommended
18 wilderness. And some of you said We don't have nearly
19 enough wilderness. So right there you've got different
20 values and different starting points, which is fine. I
21 respect that and I hear that. What I'm looking for is
22 some of that middle. Because we can debate values all
23 day. And again, we respect each others values. We're
24 not going to change those. There's specific things,
25 there's some place-based things with the recommended

1 wilderness for the Flathead, some areas that are near and
2 dear to your heart that I'll summarize here when we move
3 forward in just a few minutes on some things that can
4 help me try and form my decision when I'm looking at the
5 objections. And there's some, particularly, uses or
6 nonuses from the wilderness. I could use some help from
7 you on what I think I understand but I'm having a hard
8 time visualizing how you may see that and help me moving
9 forward. So we'll help with some of that dialogue. And
10 again, an opportunity for all of you to continue to have
11 some dialogue. Many of you have been having it, I know,
12 for several years now but just continuing with that from
13 that standpoint.

14 There's going to be some things here that
15 you're not going to see, we're not going to have time,
16 because we need to honor the time necessary that's about
17 recommended wilderness. We'll do our best with Ginny's
18 help to at least make sure we get those out on the table
19 and so, again, I make sure I'm not missing something from
20 that standpoint.

21 And I guess I'm going to pause there real
22 quick. Is there questions on the process or even just
23 where we got to what's on the topic or the agenda this
24 afternoon? And as we go along, if you have questions,
25 please, bring them up.

1 The briefing paper that's in front of you and
2 the folks on the phone, I know we sent them out
3 electronically, the one on recommended wilderness that
4 we're going to be using this afternoon and I'll use it as
5 a kick start, I just want to emphasize, this is just to
6 get and to start the dialogue. It's not meant to be all
7 comprehensive of everything we've heard or a complete
8 summary of everything. It's a starting point. So it's
9 just a tool. And sometimes it helps me to help formulate
10 some thoughts. And for some people it helps having
11 something in front of them and for some it's not helpful
12 at all. It's just a tool. It's not meant to be
13 everything. And I'll walk through a little bit of it
14 here when we kick off the dialogue. But I think first
15 what we want to do is turn it over to Ginny, we'll do a
16 little bit of introductions, make sure we hear the voices
17 on the phone when we go through that, and then we'll jump
18 right in.

19 MS. TRIBE: Thanks, Leanne.

20 My name is Ginny Tribe. I'm a facilitator. I
21 don't work for the Forest Service. I don't live here. I
22 work with several people that are at the table in
23 different types of processes. I just think it's useful
24 for you to know that I'm here as a neutral and that's it.
25 I'm a process person not the content person.

1 As far as our setup, the way this works,
2 according to the regulations, is that those of you who
3 have standing as you filed an objection or as an
4 interested party, you will have a seat at the table. I'm
5 going to make sure that every single person at the table
6 has an opportunity to say what they need to say. And
7 again, this is not about testimony. This is not about
8 repeating your objection or bringing new information to
9 support it. This is about having conversation so that
10 the Forest supervisor and regional forester can hear some
11 things behind what your objections were.

12 And when I think about this particular -- we
13 did timber this morning and jobs and income. When I
14 think about remedies for those kinds of things and I look
15 at the objections that come on wilderness, there's a
16 couple of remedies that you would be happy with, more or
17 less. Well, that's like a yes-or-no question. So I
18 think it's going to be harder to have that conversation
19 in this section than in the others. So we'll see what we
20 can do.

21 I would ask you to please, as Chip said, turn
22 off your phones. And Timory, the people who come in on
23 phone they put theirs on mute; is that correct? We've
24 got coffee back there. Help yourself if you need to.
25 There are a couple of microphones on the table. We did

1 have three but you broke yours this morning.

2 MS. MARTEN: Sorry.

3 MS. TRIBE: Theirs doesn't work anymore.
4 They got kind of out of hand.

5 We have a court reporter here, and Bambi takes
6 everything verbatim. So we have complete minutes of the
7 meeting. It's not about what we write on the flip chart
8 and that kind of business. She does magic work.

9 And when we think about what it's not today,
10 this is not about looking for consensus. This is not
11 about restating your objections. This is not a
12 decision-making session. Leanne will not be making
13 decisions today. It's about dialogue.

14 My role is to keep you focused. I want to use
15 the time the best way we can. I'd ask you to be civil
16 with each other. I look around the room and I don't
17 remember any of you that I worked with before not
18 being -- Jake, right -- not being really pretty civil.

19 MR. KREILICK: We can all get along.

20 MS. TRIBE: We can all get along, you know.
21 And as long as we don't talk about certain subjects, like
22 wilderness. So I'm going to ask you to sort of -- I'm
23 certainly asking the Forest Service people to do this.
24 Seek understanding. Not so that you can win or lose.
25 This not about nice-nice. This is just about let's make

1 the time most valuable here. And I know not only do you
2 want to have some discussion with people at the table but
3 you also wouldn't mind hearing discussion among people at
4 that table. And that just helps them understand the
5 interest at the table. So I'm not looking for consensus
6 but there's nothing wrong with some mutuality of
7 understanding about issues. So you okay? All right.

8 So then, I'm going to ask if the people on the
9 phone are objectors or interested parties for wilderness,
10 would you introduce yourself?

11 MR. WEBER: Are you hearing us on the
12 phone?

13 ON THE PHONE: We are.

14 MR. WEBER: Just checking.

15 MS. MARTEN: I think we had three people,
16 and they may just be observers.

17 MS. TRIBE: I'm going to leave that alone.

18 Would you mind starting, your name and who do
19 you represent.

20 MR. SMOLEN: I'm Mark Smolen with the
21 Flathead Snowmobile Association.

22 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

23 MR. BLACKLER: I'm Edd Blackler, and I'm
24 here my -- for myself.

25 MS. TRIBE: Your former self?

1 MR. BLACKLER: I'm representing myself, I
2 guess.

3 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Edd.

4 MR. WINDBIGLER: I'm Steve Windbigler, and
5 I'm representing the community in general.

6 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

7 MR. O'NEIL: Jerry O'Neil. I representing
8 myself and in a little ways I might be representing
9 Montanans for Multiple Use.

10 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

11 MR. NORMAN: Doug Norman representing
12 Summit Snowmobilers in Cut Bank, Cut Bank, Cut Bank
13 Saddle Club, and myself.

14 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Doug.

15 MR. KREILICK: Jake Kreilick representing
16 the Flathead-Lolo-Bitterroot Citizen Task Force.

17 MR. GNIADEK: I'm Steve Gniadek. I'm on
18 the board of North Fork Preservation Association
19 representing them but also representing my own views.

20 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Steve.

21 MR. LARSON: I'm John Larson, and I'm just
22 here representing myself.

23 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

24 MS. LAMAR: Sharon Lamar, and I'm a citizen
25 representing myself.

1 MS. TRIBE: Thanks.

2 DR. GUNDERSON: I'm Dr. Kari Gunderson
3 representing myself but also representing the Mission
4 Mountains Wilderness where I worked as a wilderness
5 ranger for thirty-five years and worked as a back-country
6 ranger for five years in the Swan Front. And I know that
7 area intimately.

8 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

9 MR. MORROW: Brent Morrow from Salmon
10 Prairie and Swan Valley representing my interest in the
11 Central Swan Valley.

12 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

13 MR. PECK: Brian Peck, wildlife consultant
14 from Columbia Falls.

15 MR. BODMAN: Noah Bodman. I'm representing
16 Flathead Area Mountain Bikers.

17 MR. HADDON: Dave Haddon, Headwaters
18 Montana.

19 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Dave.

20 MR. VITALE: Frank Vitale. I represent
21 North Fork Preservation Association. I'm also on the
22 state board of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, although
23 I'm not representing them here today. I do speak with
24 them.

25 MS. TRIBE: But you bring that information.

1 MR. VITALE: Yes. And representing myself
2 and spent forty years trying to protect the wildlands of
3 the northern Whitefish Range.

4 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

5 MS. LUNDSTRUM: Sarah Lundstrum. I work
6 for and I'm representing the National Parks Conservation
7 Association and also the Whitefish Range Partnership.

8 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

9 MS. ROBINSON: Amy Robinson, and I
10 represent myself, always, but also underneath Montana
11 Wilderness Association.

12 MS. TRIBE: Thanks.

13 MR. ANDERSON: Mike Anderson. I represent
14 the Wilderness Society.

15 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

16 Now, this morning we only had a scattering of
17 people that were observers. We have a little bit of time
18 this afternoon, and I'm going to do that quick, if that's
19 all right. So would people in the back who are
20 observers, and just thinking again how the process goes,
21 these guys will have the conversation. But at the end,
22 I'm hoping we have some time where I can ask you what
23 your observations are, if you have some comments to make
24 as well. So for now, would you mind just saying who you
25 are? And John, do you want to start, who you represent.

1 MR. HANSON: John Hanson with the Montana
2 Logging Association.

3 MS. TRIBE: Thank you. Let's just go this
4 way.

5 MR. ANDERSON: Alden Anderson just here to
6 observe.

7 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

8 FROM THE FLOOR: Joel (inaudible).

9 MS. TRIBE: Thanks.

10 MR. LARSON: Jordan Larson, regional
11 commerce.

12 MS. TRIBE: So we could think of you as
13 part of this team also.

14 MR. LARSON: You could.

15 MS. TRIBE: Janette, you are?

16 MS. TURK: Janette Turk, public affairs
17 office for the Flathead National Forest.

18 MS. TRIBE: And we kind of think of you as
19 part of the team as well.

20 MS. MARTEN: Hey, we're all one big team.

21 MS. TRIBE: That's right. So Sonya.

22 MS. GERMANN: Sonya Germann with Montana
23 Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

24 MR. ARNO: Matt Arno, DNRC.

25 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

1 MR. SIMPSON: Neil Simpson. I'm also with
2 DNRC.

3 MS. TRIBE: See, they're banding together.

4 MR. DAVIES: I'm Rob Davies. I'm the
5 district ranger on Hungry Horse-Glacier View Flathead
6 National Forest.

7 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

8 MR. KASNER: Chad Kashmeir, Forest Service.

9 MR. FREUND: Jody Freund with the Forest
10 Service.

11 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

12 MS. MCCABE: Kathy McKay from Kalispell.

13 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

14 MR. PORTER: Russ Porter, Swan Valley
15 advocate.

16 MS. TRIBE: Thanks.

17 MS. FIELD: Carol Field*, Swan Valley.

18 Just here to observe and represent myself and my
19 community.

20 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

21 MR. ANDERSON: Ron Anderson, Swan Valley
22 resident, logging contractor.

23 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

24 Well, any questions on process?

25 MS. MARTEN: Can we have folks on the phone

1 introduce themselves as observers?

2 MS. TRIBE: Good, please. Can you hear us
3 on the phone?

4 MS. KASELLY: Yes. Can you hear me?

5 MS. TRIBE: Yes. Will you say who you are
6 and what on earth you're doing?

7 MS. CASSELLI: My name's Elizabeth
8 Casselli, and I'm the recreational specialist on the
9 Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest. So I've been
10 doing that recommended wilderness here on this particular
11 forest plan revision.

12 MS. TRIBE: Great. Anybody else on the
13 phone?

14 MS. WOODING: My name is Ruth Wooding, and
15 I'm a project manager here in the regional office. And I
16 worked on the objection panel, so just sitting in on the
17 wilderness portion; thanks.

18 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

19 MS. SUTTON: And Ginny, this is Jody Sutton
20 from the Washington office KR Group, just listening in to
21 learn more.

22 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

23 MS. RENWICK: And this is Katie Renwick
24 from the regional office also just listening in to the
25 wilderness question.

1 MS. CLARK: This is Wendy Clark, the
2 wildlife biologist on the Helena-Lewis and Clark revision
3 team, also listening in just to see how this process
4 goes.

5 MS. TRIBE: Wendy, thanks.

6 MS. CLARK: And you also have Deb
7 Entwistle, Amanda Melborne and Liz Van Genderen from the
8 Helena-Lewis and Clark revision team listening in from
9 Helena.

10 MS. TRIBE: Thank you. That's it on the
11 phone? So any other questions? Should we go? Ready?
12 Leanne, please.

13 MS. MARTEN: Well, thank you, everyone.
14 And as you can see, we always are learning on this.
15 So -- and myself very much included with that. So one of
16 the things I'm going to give a shot here is a facilitated
17 dialogue on a very complex and passionate subject that we
18 all hold near and dear to our hearts on that. So I ask
19 you if you could bear with me a little bit and we'll kind
20 of go with the flow here. And if it's not working, by
21 all means, let's say that and we'll figure out how to go
22 from there on that part of it.

23 So the starting point I'm going to use is I'm
24 going to not read the briefing paper but use that just
25 kind of as a guide. And I'm going to just summarize just

1 a little bit in my own words my understanding of some of
2 the core issues around recommended wilderness. And
3 again, it's not going to be to the nth detail by any
4 means. And just make sure that I have an understanding
5 and you guys can hear through my words my understanding.
6 It doesn't mean it's right but just where I'm at.

7 So I mentioned to begin with that on one hand,
8 recognize and respect everybody has different values when
9 it comes to wilderness and what it does or does not do,
10 provide and all the things around wilderness. So some of
11 the core issues is a variety of reasons behind them, but
12 one of them is We want more wilderness, There isn't
13 enough being proposed, We don't want any being proposed
14 or There's too much, and then there's also some very
15 specific place-based. And three of the key ones, not the
16 only ones, that have come up multiple times are the
17 Bunker Creek, Sullivan Creek and I'll just say Jewel
18 Basin from that. Now, there are several others, I know,
19 in the north that the Whitefish Range Partnerships and
20 some of those. So I'm not saying, you know, we're not
21 talking about those, but the three, the Bunker Creek,
22 Sullivan and the Jewel Basin are some that I'm going to
23 key into to start out with on that.

24 And then the other part of the objections that
25 in my mind just to help try and facilitate some dialogue

1 here is whether or not you agree or disagree with
2 recommended wilderness, let's just go with recommended
3 wilderness and we're going to have some proposed
4 recommended wilderness for the topic. It's motorized,
5 mechanized use and how those lands and how they would be
6 managed is the other part of -- key part of the
7 objections from that.

8 And then a fourth area that I heard that I just
9 I want to acknowledge is there's some folks that brought
10 up they just don't agree with Chapter 7 -- 70, excuse me,
11 Chapter 70 of the planning rule directives and the
12 process. Either they don't agree with some of the
13 direction in there and the planning rule or they don't
14 agree with how we applied it in some of our
15 interpretations from that standpoint. So that's
16 underlying some of the objections and some of the things
17 that folks wrote in as well from that.

18 What I do want to say with the Chapter 70 is
19 I'm very familiar with Chapter 70 from previous jobs as
20 well as current positions, and I understand that as much
21 as we try to make things clear, everything we write as
22 human beings is subject to interpretation. And again,
23 it's not a right or wrong, but there are some things as
24 an agency that I know we interpret differently than some
25 of you may agree with. And I don't have the authority to

1 change the planning rule or Chapter 70 in the directives.
2 So that -- I don't have a whole lot of flexibility. But
3 as we move through on what we move forward with and how
4 we did it, if there's something there that you feel like
5 we totally missed, that's the type of dialogue that would
6 help me at this point. The fact that you like or don't
7 like Chapter 70, I recognize that and respect it. But
8 that isn't going to be something that I can really change
9 with this dialogue and this process from that standpoint.
10 But I don't want to ignore the fact that that did
11 underline some of your issues and some of the objections
12 that came up from there. And I'm happy to answer
13 questions or what have you with that, but I wanted to at
14 least put that in the room from that.

15 So what would help me as we move forward with
16 this to have more dialogue on and to hear from you folks
17 from around the table is if we could start out maybe just
18 parsing out a few things. There's some proposed remedies
19 that came up. And a couple of the key ones were
20 summarized in the briefing paper. And again, it's not
21 every single remedy, but there are a couple ones. And
22 I'm keying in on not the no recommended or more
23 recommended, you know, not the extremes, not the yes, nos
24 as Ginny put it. What would help me right now is to have
25 a little bit more dialogue on some of the place-based and

1 some remedies around -- I'll just start with Bunker
2 Creek, Sullivan Creek and Jewel Basin. Because I'm
3 having a little bit of a struggle visualizing on just
4 how, for folks that brought those up as proposed remedies
5 how you envision how that would look to you to be
6 successful. So in some of our additions and not
7 additions and bisecting trails on that. And I don't know
8 if this is going to help facilitate or it's all going to
9 get muddled as we go along. But again, we're going to
10 kind of go with the flow here on that.

11 So I'm thinking Bunker Creek, if I've got the
12 right one visualized in my mind, part of the issues that
13 came across with that was some I'll use the term, I don't
14 know if cherry-stemming is the right term or some
15 bisecting of that. I believe between the draft and the
16 final there were some changes that were made with that
17 that some folks had some issues with. So I guess I'm
18 looking for some assistance from folks that are -- and
19 anybody. It doesn't mean you brought up objections, are
20 at the table, if there's a way to help facilitate
21 dialogue around, I'll just say, Bunker Creek, but even if
22 it's all three or some of the place-based at the same
23 time, what is it we missed? What is it that we're not
24 meeting in your opinion? How would it look moving
25 forward to you that isn't a yes or no type thing? Is

1 there something that we can be doing differently, Chip
2 can use in his decision? Is there management? Those are
3 the type of things I'm trying to kind of wrap my head
4 around from that. So I'm hoping anybody who might want
5 to start with that. And there's no right or wrong. And
6 if it goes in a different direction in dialogue, I'm okay
7 with that.

8 MS. TRIBE: Please.

9 MR. SMOLEN: I'll clarify. I'm Mark
10 Smolen. I'm representing Dave Covill. He's the one who
11 actually filed the objection. But I'm the
12 vice-president.

13 MS. TRIBE: And the other thing you just
14 did, which is wonderful, is you said your name before you
15 started to speak. And that's the thing I forgot to say
16 and they keep reminding me. Bambi really needs to hear
17 your name so that she knows who says it. That might get
18 kind of tedious after a while, but let's try. So thank
19 you. So not only are you saying your name, you're using
20 a different name.

21 MR. SMOLEN: Yeah. So Dave Covill filed
22 the objection on behalf of FSA. He's the president and
23 I'm the vice-president.

24 One of the areas that I find most confusing,
25 the maps are wonderful, but one of the hardest things and

1 especially with regard to motorized use, is to understand
2 what the before and the after will be. This is something
3 where I think, you know, having more layers within the
4 mapping system and maybe even an interactive mapping
5 system like we do with some of the ESRI tools online with
6 Fish, Wildlife and Parks or FWP and some of the other
7 agencies. But online we could have different layers of
8 all of these different areas. You know, you could just
9 click them and turn them on and you could see the current
10 motorized vehicle use areas and then you could say Now I
11 want to overlay the proposed motorized use area or
12 nonmotorized. That would help people, I think, from the
13 standpoint of being able to visualize.

14 Right now, what we have on these maps is 15
15 different subjects all being laid on one map, and you
16 can't tell which areas are going to be accessible for
17 motorized use or inaccessible. There's this big chunk
18 that's going to be RWA, and that's supposedly
19 nonmotorized, but it doesn't let us see what we have
20 today, the corridors that we have for access especially
21 in the North Fork. If you look at the corridors where we
22 can, as snowmobilers that I'm representing, can access
23 certain areas, they're very thin corridors that allow us
24 in and then we have play areas way up high. And then --
25 but I cannot tell if I'm losing that, going to maintain

1 access through a corridor or not.

2 MS. MARTEN: So Mark, a clarifying
3 question. Thank you. The clarifying question, if I'm
4 hearing you correctly, that's not only what the areas
5 that we're proposing as RWAs but across the Forest to
6 have a better feel, from your perspective with
7 snowmobiling overall, what would be changing through this
8 forest plan revision on areas that would be open for you
9 to enjoy as a snowmobiler.

10 MR. SMOLEN: Absolutely. But in
11 particular, being able to see the before and the after.

12 MS. MARTEN: Current versus what would be
13 moving toward a future desired condition on that.

14 One of the things, and this is a process thing
15 that I'll let folks know, but Bambi's a court reporter so
16 everything from the meetings will be in written
17 transcript. And we'll post those when we have them all.
18 I'll be using those. I've got folks taking notes. So if
19 you're noticing I'm not taking notes and you're thinking
20 She's not -- I'm actually purposely not doing that so I
21 can truly listen. I've got others that are taking notes
22 and I'll have the transcript to go back to as I'm going
23 through my decision. So people may be wondering How do
24 you -- well, I'm not trying to remember everything. But
25 if I'm writing, I'm not able to listen and truly

1 interact. And we will have the transcripts for everybody
2 on that part.

3 But thank you, Mark.

4 So I guess from that standpoint, one of the
5 underlying things I'm also hearing here, and I may be
6 reading into it so push back on me, is just your desire
7 to make sure you still have areas and you're not
8 necessarily losing a whole bunch of areas to go enjoy.

9 MR. SMOLEN: Correct.

10 MS. MARTEN: As much as the place-based
11 areas. There's different levels and different challenges
12 and that. But also just trying to get -- and my term not
13 yours -- losing the ability.

14 MR. SMOLEN: Correct. And as the FSA, we
15 would simply like to point out that this area is heavily
16 populated by tourists in the summertime because we all
17 know Glacier and everything else. But in the wintertime
18 there are a lot of areas that kind of roll up their
19 sidewalks. But motorized use is one of the largest
20 economic, what do you want to call it, motor mechanisms
21 to bring in those tourist dollars in the wintertime for
22 the area. So we think that maintaining those areas for
23 winter use is critical for this area's economic
24 viability.

25 MS. MARTEN: Great; thanks. So other

1 thoughts. It can be on what Mark said or questions or
2 other thoughts you guys have on recommended wilderness.

3 Go ahead John.

4 MR. LARSON: John Larson. Full disclosure,
5 I'm also a board member and council member for the
6 Montana Wilderness Association. Specifically, you know,
7 you talked about Bunker Creek, Upper Sullivan Creek and
8 the Jewel Basin issue.

9 I guess my view is that it will pay off in the
10 long run to have as much of that contiguous area as
11 designated wilderness as we can get. I think wilderness
12 is going to become even more valuable in the future in
13 the ten, fifteen years when the population of this Valley
14 triples. It's also a national resource for people coming
15 in and enjoying the wilderness experience. And it would
16 provide a corridor for wildlife habitat that's
17 undisturbed that could be really valuable, particularly
18 as we're looking at effects and climate change and so
19 forth.

20 Specifically on the Jewel Basin edition, I
21 notice the area to the south was deleted in the modified
22 alternative B. And I couldn't find in there a whole lot
23 of rationale for that. And there's some existing
24 mountain bike use up there. I guess I'd point out
25 there's a lot of areas where mountain bikes can be used.

1 And despite the distance, it's an awful long way in there
2 to drive a mountain bike. And it would seem that there
3 are some better opportunities for mountain bike
4 recreation elsewhere.

5 MS. MARTEN: So if I could, I had a
6 representative from mountain bikes; right? I'd just be
7 curious, what are your thoughts on that?

8 MR. BODMAN: Well, we didn't file an
9 objection on any of these place-based issues in large
10 part because there are corridors built into the
11 recommended wilderness areas. And I don't know if I
12 would say we're happy with the increased recommended
13 wilderness, but I think as a compromise we were all right
14 with how the plan was laid out, at least with respect to
15 the Jewel and the Bunker Creek areas. So if -- there's a
16 number of trails in there that are open to mountain bikes
17 that are close to recommended wilderness areas in the
18 draft plan. So if those trails were included into a
19 recommended wilderness area and closed to bikes, then we
20 probably would have an objection.

21 And I think that does go to the objection that
22 we did file is that recommended wilderness areas don't
23 need to be closed to bikes. Trails don't need to be
24 closed to bikes within the recommended wilderness areas.
25 And Region One is the only region that pretty broadly

1 applies that closure to bikes in recommended wilderness
2 areas. So maybe there's a compromise out there that
3 would bring those trails within a recommended wilderness
4 area but keep them open to bikes. If that were the case,
5 we'd probably have to sleep on it a little bit. But
6 that's our take on it.

7 MS. MARTEN: Appreciate it. And I know
8 there's definitely some different views. Please don't
9 wait for me to call on you if you folks have ideas or
10 thoughts. And Ginny will help.

11 MR. HADDON: Thanks for the opportunity to
12 participate in the objection period. I'm Dave Haddon. I
13 will try to speak louder.

14 I think one of my concerns around the
15 contiguous areas of Bunker Creek and Upper Sullivan are
16 that my interpretation, I don't know if you would agree
17 Leanne or Chip. I think Chip actually spoke to this
18 around the time of the release of the plan speaking to
19 the fact that recreation as well as Forest management,
20 active Forest management would be increasing on the
21 Forest or the forest plan was attempting to emphasize
22 those assets. And so my reading of the forest plan
23 overall is that it's going to decrease security for
24 wildlife. And so my -- our feeling with respect to the
25 Bunker-Sullivan area is this is a really core area for

1 wildlife security within the Swan Range.

2 Dr. John Weaver spoke pretty eloquently in his
3 report that was submitted to the Forest Service that the
4 whole region basically from the whole Swan Range from the
5 Bob Marshall to the Jewel should be recommended
6 wilderness. We didn't necessarily agree with that
7 because we understand the long-standing commitment of the
8 Forest and public in general to snowmobiling within part
9 of that zone. But Bunker Creek and Upper Sullivan are
10 really core areas, secure areas, for wildlife. And this
11 would be one area where the Forest could enhance rather
12 than decrease wildlife security. So I'll just keep my
13 comments on that issue to that for right now.

14 MS. TRIBE: Amy.

15 MS. ROBINSON: Amy Robinson, Montana
16 Wilderness Association.

17 So Noah and I, we have worked together in other
18 venues about mountain bikes and wilderness, and we've
19 agreed to both agree and disagree on some things. And I
20 think of, Leanne, the Swan Range, you know, as a
21 wilderness advocate, that this incredibly wild area that
22 could have been wilderness in the '80s. And frankly, I
23 suppose, has been largely utilized by various
24 recreational uses since then, since that time when we
25 almost were able to pass a wilderness bill. So right

1 now, we have established motorized, both winter and
2 summer, and mechanized opportunities that are amazing
3 because the Swan Range is amazing. And so I see as sort
4 of Dave articulated, this kind of shrinking of wildland
5 potential in the Swan, and that's why this planning
6 process, in my mind, is really important that we not take
7 away everybody's values but that we protect the
8 wilderness or the wildland core in a way that makes the
9 best sense. And so that's why throughout this process I
10 have been advocating for Bunker and Upper Sullivan Creek
11 because it makes sense for an addition onto the Bob
12 Marshall Wilderness. It adds wilderness onto the current
13 recommended wilderness that's adjacent to the Bob.
14 There's currently no motorized use in that area and very,
15 very little mechanized use. So the conflict is very low
16 and the wildland value is very high. So right now, it's
17 about 27,000 acres of grizzly bear management area in
18 that zone.

19 I say Why don't we just secure that for future
20 generations and for our wildlife? And we can still
21 maintain almost all the existing motorized use and
22 mechanized use that currently exists in the beloved Swan
23 Range. So that's why I've been really focused on -- MWA
24 and our members -- on Bunker and Upper Sullivan for the
25 past five years, not to mention citizen advocates have

1 been advocating for this area since the '50s. So I often
2 tell people I'm not some new girl wilderness advocate
3 that comes in here and decides this area needs to be
4 wilderness. No. I work on the backs of all kinds of
5 other people who have been doing this way before me. So
6 that's where I come from, too, today. I'm carrying that
7 message and that torch for these wild places into the
8 future.

9 And so I've been trying to offer a pragmatic
10 solution that protects the wild core. And I say Hey, I
11 realize that, for example, mountain bikers use trail 7.
12 I think we can give up trail 7, even though, frankly, I
13 think that area should be wilderness too. But let's move
14 the boundary to keep trail 7 out for mechanized users and
15 still protect the wildland core in the Bunker-Sullivan
16 area. So I was surprised when the draft came out where
17 there were corridors up the Middle Fork, and
18 disappointed. Because I really don't think that the use
19 currently exists to substantiate those corridors and that
20 we'll get more value -- the land is more suitable, as it
21 stands right now, for wilderness.

22 So that's the -- I know I'm talking a long
23 time, but this is something that is like a huge thing for
24 me. So I'm happy to talk more and answer questions,
25 Leanne.

1 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Amy.

2 MS. MARTEN: Well, if I could, I do have a
3 question. So help me out, Amy, with those -- the
4 corridors you mentioned and I think as what I referred to
5 as cherry-stemming on that part. So what I hear you
6 saying is not having those, so having it be more
7 contiguous. Is there any other way, in your mind, that
8 you've been able to think of or working with Noah or
9 others -- and no, I'm not picking on you, you just happen
10 to be representing mountain bikes -- other than not
11 having them or having them? Is there anything else in
12 between there? Is there anything else that that could
13 look a little different. Maybe not mean a hundred
14 percent but a little bit closer to what your dream would
15 be.

16 MS. ROBINSON: Yeah. Well, I brought this
17 map for you. I don't know, you've probably seen it. But
18 this is just one I made up. And you know, currently,
19 there's basically no trails in the existing
20 wilderness -- recommended wilderness addition. And I
21 come from the standpoint of saying actually trails
22 enhance the wilderness experience. And so basically
23 there's two or three technically trails that I think
24 should be added into the recommended wilderness.

25 MS. MARTEN: For mechanized use?

1 MS. ROBINSON: For recommended wilderness.

2 MS. MARTEN: More trails in recommended
3 wilderness that would be open to mechanized use?

4 MS. ROBINSON: So currently there are no
5 trails in the recommended wilderness at all. So is that
6 what your question is?

7 MS. MARTEN: No. If I understood what you
8 said, and I'm just trying to get a vision of -- you would
9 want to have potentially some trails added for the use of
10 the wilderness.

11 MS. ROBINSON: Yeah.

12 MS. MARTEN: But my question would be if we
13 added those trails, would you be saying you would be okay
14 with mechanized use, i.e., mountain bikes, or are you
15 talking just hiking trails?

16 MS. ROBINSON: No, I'm talking just hiking.

17 MS. MARTEN: Okay; that's what I was
18 clarifying.

19 MS. ROBINSON: But I recognize and I
20 understand that you're seeking a middle ground and a
21 solution here. So what I'm saying is, you know, maybe
22 there's something we could talk about. There's three
23 trails that are now outside of the existing recommended
24 wilderness. Maybe there's one trail that could be left
25 out or something for mechanized use.

1 MS. TRIBE: So you'd be willing to continue
2 that conversation.

3 MS. ROBINSON: Sure; I'm always willing.

4 MS. TRIBE: So Amy, you'd be willing to
5 continue to explore places where that might be able to
6 happen.

7 MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

8 MS. TRIBE: We'll just leave the mic there
9 unless -- you can pass it around if you think you need
10 it.

11 Noah, I know you're part of this so I'm going
12 to take that, but then I've got Edd and then I've got
13 Jake and then I have Frank. So I'm going to do it that
14 way, if that's okay. We'll finish up with Noah on this
15 issue.

16 MS. MARTEN: That's fine.

17 MR. BODMAN: This is Noah Bodman with
18 Flathead Area Mountain Bikers. So I guess responding to
19 what Amy and Dave had said, I guess in large part, my
20 position, like Amy said, there's not a ton of bike use on
21 those trails. We're way up in northwest Montana.
22 There's not a lot of bike use on any trails in the
23 Forest. But those in particular, I'm not arguing that
24 those are heavily used bike corridors, but I think they
25 also offer a pretty unique experience. Some of the guys

1 that are going out and riding those trails are doing
2 something that is difficult and special and that is not
3 easily replicated elsewhere on the Forest.

4 John noted that there are better bike trails on
5 the forest. But not everybody's out there looking for an
6 easy, manicured, nicely-created four-bikes kind of
7 experience. And that Bunker Creek area does offer
8 something that a subset of the mountain bike population
9 is looking for. And that's not something that's easy to
10 find elsewhere.

11 And ultimately, my point here is that there is
12 a relatively low level of use of bikes on those trails.
13 And I think it's a tough argument to make to say that
14 those bikes using those trails are degrading the
15 wilderness character of that area. You know, there's 20
16 guys out there a year on bikes. I don't see much of an
17 impact there. And now I can't speak -- I don't know what
18 motorized uses are allowed in that area. I'm not
19 familiar -- I don't believe any of those trails are open
20 to summer motorized use, and I don't know if any of that
21 area is open to winter motorized. So if the issue is,
22 really, just bikes, it doesn't seem like it should be all
23 that difficult. If they're cherry stems like they are,
24 you know, it's effectively contiguous. There's whatever
25 it is, a 50-foot wide corridor, that lets bikes through

1 it without having to make things messy. But as far as
2 the on-the-ground effects on wildlife and vegetation, I
3 think it's basically all recommended wilderness. And so
4 really, if I'm looking at it from the point of view of
5 how do we protect this landscape, because I think we all
6 agree that it's worthy of protection, I don't see those
7 cherry stems as really detracting from that protection at
8 all.

9 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

10 So go on, Edd.

11 MR. BLACKLER: Edd Blackler. And a few
12 observations that I thought maybe might be helpful to
13 throw at everyone. Over the years, including way back
14 when we had a discussion similar to this about the Noisy
15 Face, we established some reasonable utilizations of the
16 various areas. And in a big sense, it was to protect the
17 wildlife, was one big thing, but we were able to
18 designate some absolutely hiker only, no motorized, and
19 it made some sense. And as years have gone by, initially
20 as a horse rider, I was all pretty much convinced that
21 one of the biggest safety dangers was to be in an area
22 that allowed both kinds of use. I thought Look out, I
23 don't want to be surprised by some outfit that approached
24 me and made a lot of noise. And I pretty much held to
25 that for many years. And then all of a sudden I was

1 riding along nice and peaceful on a quiet trail, and I
2 was overcome by a mountain bike silently approaching.
3 Scared the holy crap out of my horse. I don't think we
4 ever want those uses to be allowed on the same trail,
5 ever. And I think one of the problems that I've observed
6 that of the Forest Service trying to be nice to
7 everybody, which you're trying to be today --

8 MS. TRIBE: Oh, sure, Edd.

9 MR. BLACKLER: -- you have to draw the
10 line. And that's ultimately going to be the best
11 solution for everybody, even with differing opinions. If
12 you stick to your guns and say Okay, we recognize these
13 uses are not compatible in any way, they never should
14 happen on the same place, so this area is assigned
15 this for this reason. This area, which is massive for
16 motorized and motorbikes and bicycles, all the way
17 around, there's way more areas that they can use than
18 that they can't use. So let's move along and keep the
19 separation apart and make it work. And that's going to
20 be you can't be everything to everybody. It's just not
21 going to work that way; thank you.

22 MS. TRIBE: So Edd, your suggestion for a
23 remedy here to that uses be separated.

24 MR. BLACKLER: Yes.

25 MS. TRIBE: Regardless.

1 MR. BLACKLER: Yes.

2 MS. TRIBE: I'm not talking about how much
3 we have or anything. But you're talking about the safety
4 nature as well as the enjoyment nature. Thank you.
5 Thanks.

6 Jake.

7 MR. KREILICK: Jake Kreilick,
8 Flathead-Lolo-Bitterroot Citizen Task Force. I just want
9 to point out that the agency received 34,000 comments in
10 favor of all roadless areas being recommended for
11 wilderness. A tremendous amount of public support out
12 there for this. So we would certainly, for the Bunker
13 Creek and Sullivan Creek and certainly the Jewel Basin
14 which I'm more familiar with personally and have spent
15 some time up there, we want permanent protection for all
16 of this.

17 I would like to kind of concur with Edd's
18 comment that I think at some level, the existing forest
19 plan still provides a pretty good bedrock that you need
20 to base some of these decisions on. Changing some of the
21 management area designations here to allow mountain
22 biking in some of these primitive areas is a very
23 slippery slope. We are not in favor of mountain bikes in
24 roadless areas. We think that, number one, it obviously
25 will defile the character of the area. But more

1 important in terms of the definition of wilderness, I
2 think this is outside of the scope of the Wilderness Act.
3 And so we've objected to Senator Tester's bill for the
4 North Fork of Blackfoot and Monture Creek where we see
5 the same thing happen and in Spread Creek. We're not in
6 favor of that.

7 So again, we're coming at this one, obviously
8 we think that there are many other values that wilderness
9 represents. We mentioned the wildlife. I think the
10 watersheds and the water quality values, the air quality
11 values. Certainly in terms of the value of it as an
12 ecological reserve, we're allowing natural processes and
13 we're allowing old growth. These are the places that are
14 outside of sort of our normal day-to-day management on
15 the Forest. So for us, this is a line in the sand.

16 MS. MARTEN: So thank you, Jake. And if I
17 could ask a question with that, I'm putting my nice hat
18 on here, Edd, on that part. So understand and respect
19 what you just heard. And one of the things and one of
20 the challenges, of course, we have is one of the uses of
21 our public lands is everybody is the enjoyment with your
22 mountain biking as well. And we heard Noah explain a
23 little bit, and I know through other dialogues, one of
24 the things people like are different level of challenges.
25 They don't want all nice, groomed trails. Some of that

1 is more primitive country. So with that in mind, do you
2 have -- if you were sitting in my shoes and you were
3 trying to do that, any suggestions on how to make that
4 work and provide that type of experience?

5 MR. KREILICK: We have, through some of the
6 former collaboration, kind of put out some of these
7 ideas, more on the motorized front to kind of have
8 motorized loops and areas where you can really
9 concentrate some of that use. My suggestion would be for
10 the agency to consider more of that, again, within the
11 roaded landscape but I think within some more, I don't
12 want to say primitive, but certainly more natural areas
13 where there's plenty of opportunities out there given the
14 extent of the road system on the National Forest system
15 where mountain bikers can have access.

16 Now, catering to the trails and more of the
17 adventure riding, that's something that the agency and
18 the recreation planners are going to have to really put
19 their heads together on maybe to come up with some
20 concentrated or dedicated areas to that. But again, some
21 of these roadless areas, you're not going to find support
22 across all the environmental community.

23 MS. MARTEN: And I definitely understand
24 that. And I mentioned to folks -- and I appreciate the
25 way you put it, Edd. Your wording, I really like that,

1 we're trying to be nice. But the way I worded it is
2 obviously I hope I'm a nice person. But it's trying to
3 do the job that I have the responsibility, which is
4 manage the land that you all own. And obviously there's
5 a diverse opinion on how to manage those lands. And the
6 challenges you described and folks have described is one
7 of the things that I'm just trying to get a better feel
8 with some ideas on that.

9 MR. KREILICK: I don't think it's something
10 that the agency has put enough resources into on that
11 recreation side. So in terms of a remedy. Because
12 again, the increase -- the use is increasing and we
13 recognize that.

14 MS. MARTEN: Yes. Thanks; that helps. And
15 if this was an easy answer, folks, we wouldn't be sitting
16 here having the challenging dialogues we've been having
17 for years. So I just appreciate you bearing with me
18 because if I had all the answers I'd like you know what
19 they were and everybody would be happy; right.

20 MS. TRIBE: So Jake, while you said a line
21 in the sand, you made it real clear where you were and
22 where you represent. But I also heard you say that an
23 exploration you were looking at motorized before in a
24 another setting.

25 MR. KREILICK: Definitely, within those

1 early collaborations that's when we looked at some of the
2 motorized trails.

3 MS. TRIBE: So Jake, am I hearing that you
4 would be willing to explore remedies that sort of use
5 that kind of thing as an example that you use with
6 motorized to look at the business of bikes, for example,
7 mechanized, rather, in sort of the same thought
8 processes? You said we really need the recreation
9 planners. You'd be willing to at least help at that,
10 take a look at that.

11 MR. KREILICK: Yes.

12 MS. TRIBE: Okay.

13 Edd, you had your hand up. I want to finish
14 this one.

15 MR. BLACKLER: Well, I just wanted to make
16 note that there's currently some unauthorized creation of
17 challenging trails going on up behind us in
18 the -- between the Swan Range and up there on the Crane
19 Mountain. And it's changing its complexity immensely.
20 And the other thing that happens when this goes on, when
21 that kind of activity is allowed or granted, it's
22 tantamount to saying that the other activities are
23 excluded. Because they exclude themselves. And that's
24 not something you want to see. That's why a definite
25 division of uses, a very clear one, you're looking for

1 clarity, should be established. And don't try and say
2 Well, we'll let them go through this corridor. Well,
3 that just destroys it. This area is wilderness. These
4 are the rules. This area is motorized recreation. Go
5 there.

6 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

7 Frank. I have Frank, then I have Steve, then
8 I'm coming back over here to you.

9 MR. VITALE: Frank Vitale. And in this
10 comment, I'm representing myself. I pack hundreds of
11 miles a lot in the designated wilderness but even in
12 nonwilderness I pack a lot of trail crews, MCC crews,
13 whatnot. Do some contracting once in a while for the
14 Forest Service. But anyway, Edd -- I've known Edd for
15 many years, Backcountry Horsemen. I'm not speaking for
16 Backcountry Horsemen. But I can honestly tell you
17 that -- I pull pack string. And if I meet a mountain
18 biker on the trail, I'm going to give the ALERT
19 helicopter probably some business. It's like mixing oil
20 and water.

21 And my feeling is if an area is recommended for
22 wilderness, then I don't believe that mountain bikes have
23 a place there. Now, I support making single-track trails
24 for mountain bikes in appropriate areas. But the
25 recommended wilderness areas, I can't support that. And

1 like I said, it's a big safety issue. They're just not
2 going to mix. So that's basically my comment on the
3 mountain bike issue with the recommended wilderness.

4 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Frank. That doesn't
5 mean you're finished for the day. We'll come back to
6 you.

7 Steve.

8 MR. WINDBIGLER: I'm Steve Windbigler. And
9 I just want to kind of show an opposite viewpoint of what
10 most people are showing here. I've been a multiple use
11 person for fifty years in Montana. I do a lot of
12 backpacking, kayaking, all these kinds of things. But
13 what we're really talking about here is taking areas that
14 certain groups have been using. Like we're talking trail
15 number 7, which I believe at one time, was listed as the
16 number one longest, hardest trail in America for
17 bicyclists. They're talking about closing that off for
18 wilderness. Well, you're taking from one group and
19 giving to another.

20 Now, nearly half of the National Forest in
21 Flathead is wilderness now. We have 1,741 miles of
22 horseback trail. We have 41 trails of bicycle trails.
23 Used to be, when I was young, if you wanted to
24 snowmobile, if there was snow you could go anywhere you
25 wanted outside of the wilderness. Now, we have little

1 areas you can go to. Used to be on your motorcycle, your
2 ATV, you could ride wherever you wanted. Now it's where
3 you can ride on existing trails. Now, you can only ride
4 on designated trails and they didn't designate. There's
5 hardly any trails. There's 30 miles of ATV trails on the
6 Flathead National Forest. Part of that doesn't even
7 exist and part of it isn't even on the Flathead National
8 Forest. You take that compared to the amount of horse
9 trails, we're going to have a lot more people riding
10 bicycles. We're going to have the electric bicycle
11 coming out more and more that people want to use. And
12 the majority of the population will be using the areas
13 outside of the wilderness area. So to recommend more
14 areas that we're taking away from current uses, because
15 right now they can ride bicycles in these areas. They
16 have been snowmobiles, they have been logged, they have
17 all these uses, and now they want to take it away and put
18 it in wilderness only. If you were lacking on wilderness
19 you might have an agreement with it. But we have a lot
20 of wilderness in the Flathead National Forest.

21 MS. TRIBE: So you're suggesting a fair
22 standing.

23 MR. WINDBIGLER: Right. I'm suggesting we
24 need to look at these areas to the future for the
25 recreation for the majority of the population. As Joe

1 Krueger would always say, We need to look at the greater
2 good.

3 MR. KRUEGER: I borrowed it.

4 MS. TRIBE: I have Sarah and then Jerry.

5 MS. LUNDSTRUM: Sarah Lundstrum. I am
6 technically wearing two hats right now, but I'm wearing
7 my Whitefish Range Partnership hat. When we started our
8 negotiations, we were doing it under the assumption that
9 mountain bikes wouldn't be allowed in recommended
10 wilderness, and some things got wonky in there. But
11 because we recognize that mountain bikers, we thought,
12 were giving up their opportunities to ride in those
13 places, we actually sat down and looked at other spaces
14 on that Whitefish Range where we could maybe complete
15 some loop trails, where all we needed was a short section
16 of trails here and these two all of a sudden make a big
17 loop. And where could we build more trails that are
18 appropriate for maybe a higher level use. Because as we
19 all know, recreation use in the Forest is going up, and
20 it's going to continue to go up. So I think there's an
21 opportunity Forest-wide, not just in our Whitefish Range
22 Partnership but Forest-wide around the Swan, to really
23 bring some groups together and sit down and look at the
24 options that there are to maybe build that two-mile or
25 quarter-mile section of trail and make some loops that do

1 get to those big, wild rides that folks are really
2 interested in. And you know, really sitting down and
3 talking about it, there's probably a lot of spaces where
4 there's not conflict. But it just takes sitting down and
5 talking about it. And I think we found a lot of spaces
6 within the Whitefish Range that we could do that that
7 weren't controversial at all. It was like Oh, yeah,
8 that'd be great. So I think maybe it's a missed
9 opportunity with forest planning as it is, but there's an
10 opportunity down the road where we can have a group of
11 people, horsemen and snowmobilers and hikers and bikers
12 and everybody come together and sit down and look at that
13 option to sit down and talk about the places. Because we
14 all love this Forest. We all want to recreate here. We
15 all do it on our -- maybe we can find a way where all of
16 us get more instead. I just don't want to be in charge
17 of it.

18 MS. MARTEN: You just read my mind.

19 MS. TRIBE: Sarah, there may not be an
20 answer today. The effort to search out an answer is
21 there.

22 MS. LUNDSTRUM: And in future opportunities
23 there's a lot of stuff in this forest plan that says it's
24 a site-specific decision is needed to make this happen.
25 Well, to make that site-specific decision, let's talk

1 about trails and travel. And let's do that as a group
2 instead of just as individuals saying I want my space and
3 I want my piece. Maybe we can find more together.

4 MS. TRIBE: So Sarah, the positive thing
5 that you helped with here is that instead of looking at
6 should there or shouldn't there be, you've said the
7 desired end for some would be -- no offense if I use the
8 word "extreme" in my sentence?

9 MR. BODMAN: I'll survive.

10 MS. TRIBE: So if we look at not just the
11 growth of recreation but the growth of extreme
12 recreation, what you've helped us think about is that
13 there's probably some answers here to get to an
14 opportunity to do that where it may not be within
15 wilderness.

16 MS. LUNDSTRUM: Uh-huh.

17 MS. TRIBE: Noah, you finish it up and then
18 I'm going to Jerry.

19 MR. BODMAN: This is Noah Bodman, Flathead
20 Area Mountain Bikers. I agree a lot with what a lot of
21 Sarah said. And I get from Frank and Edd there's
22 concerns about user conflict. But I would suggest that a
23 lot of these are -- we can manage use outside of the
24 forest plan. We can manage use on a trail-by-trail
25 basis. We don't need to do landscape-level planning to

1 deal with a couple of user-conflict issues.

2 So what Sarah's getting at, I think there are
3 opportunities for working through these issues. And
4 going into the future, I think our group and I'm sure a
5 bunch of other groups are more than happy to sit down and
6 try to get that done. But sitting here today at this
7 forest plan level, I think the only opportunities I see
8 are to foreclose those options in the future. We can
9 close those off here with some management-level
10 decisions, or we can leave them open and get down into
11 the weeds of it and figure them out. And I think that's
12 more what I'm advocating for. And I think that's
13 probably more what I would take Steve's comment to mean
14 as well.

15 MS. MARTEN: So just to help me understand
16 that, and maybe I don't know if it's Steve or others here
17 as well. The way -- am I correct in hearing you that the
18 way Chip's draft decision is written, the forest plan,
19 that it is closing off the opportunity to have those
20 site-specific collaborative efforts? Or help me -- can
21 you help me understand a little bit more?

22 MR. BODMAN: No. I think the forest plan
23 as it's written right now, for the most part, doesn't
24 close those opportunities off. Now, if there's a trail
25 in Bunker Creek that Edd likes to ride his horse on and

1 there's user conflicts between a pack train and some
2 mountain bikers, we can talk about closing that specific
3 trail to bikes.

4 And maybe to Sarah's comment, maybe we push
5 that bike use somewhere else. Maybe we find a way to
6 build a trail and create a loop, something like that.
7 But we don't need to put a recommended wilderness
8 designation on that trail to have that conversation. The
9 Forest Service can manage use on that trail anytime,
10 regardless of what the overlying designation for the land
11 is. And so that's what I'm getting at. I think we can
12 foreclose our options by designating a lot of these
13 trails recommended wilderness and, well again, getting to
14 my objection, I don't think that necessarily closes them
15 to bikes, but this being Region One, it probably would.
16 But you know, that's getting to sort of a fine-tuning
17 issue using a much broader tool than is necessary.

18 MS. MARTEN: That helps; thank you.

19 MS. TRIBE: Jerry, you've been waiting.

20 MR. O'NEIL: Yes; thank you. Jerry O'Neil.

21 First, we have millions and millions of acres in Montana
22 that we've reserved as wilderness areas for the horseback
23 rider and where we exclude most everything else,
24 including bicycles, motorcycles, snowmobile. I don't
25 think -- I don't think we should take one acre away from

1 horseback riders. We should leave that in wilderness
2 area. We shouldn't remove one acre of wilderness. But
3 also, I think we should not -- the recommended wilderness
4 I do not believe we should put into the wilderness. I
5 think we should put it into a primitive recreation area
6 which would be managed locally by our superintendent of
7 Forest, Chip Weber at the moment and for a long time to
8 come I hope, and where we would allow mechanical
9 installation of trails and maintenance of trails. We
10 would allow mountain bikes in it. If there's someplace
11 in there that, with public input, they want to not allow
12 mountain bikes in, maybe Superintendent Weber could say
13 Okay; in this area we're going to allow horses in it.
14 But it should be the starting point for mountain bikes.

15 I mean, we've got millions of people coming
16 through Glacier National Park. I have never -- I don't
17 recall, or I suppose, there's some of them pulling a
18 horse trailer. I don't know; there's not very many of
19 them pulling a horse trailer, but I know there's a whole
20 bunch of them have mountain bikes on the back of their
21 car or behind their car or on the front of their car or
22 on top of their car. There's a lot of bikes coming into
23 Glacier National Park. And those people would like to be
24 able to use their bicycles in the Forest in this area.
25 And the people in the Canyon, like the Gateway to Glacier

1 group, they want to allow to have -- to allow their
2 customers to use bicycles in the Forest, not in the
3 wilderness area, but how about making a primitive
4 recreation area so some places they could do it using
5 Chip's knowledge and public input. We could
6 also -- maybe he could make a decision -- we could allow
7 him authority to make a decision for some places in the
8 wintertime to allow snowmobiles in there. And maybe
9 there's some places in the primitive recreation area we
10 could allow motorcycles. It would be locally managed,
11 not managed in Washington, D.C. like the wilderness areas
12 seem to be, and we could have some flexibility with what
13 we do there with our local population rather than be
14 hamstrung with all these nasty rules.

15 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Jerry.

16 So I'm going to take these last couple comments
17 and then I'm wondering if you might want to have people
18 stand up for about three minutes and then maybe go back
19 to these site-specific comments. Because we've kind of
20 concentrated a lot on the business of bikes, et cetera.
21 So would that work for you?

22 MS. MARTEN: That's fine.

23 MS. TRIBE: So please, whatever name you're
24 using now.

25 MR. SMOLEN: Mark Smolen. I think I'm just

1 going to quickly reiterate that the Flathead objective to
2 both the RWAs in the North Fork and down in the Swan,
3 down the Six Mile, I don't think that's the Bunker Creek.
4 I get those mixed up.

5 MS. MARTEN: That's okay; so do I, so
6 you're fine.

7 MR. SMOLEN: But so those were the specific
8 areas that we objected to. But I have to say I would
9 very much agree with the not creating recommended
10 wilderness areas and having a much more local control
11 over that area. I think as an organization, we would be
12 much more in favor of what this gentleman just said.

13 MS. MARTEN: So one of the things -- I
14 don't know if this is a clarification on my part or a
15 question. So I don't know if this will make sense, but
16 you know, when you talk about the local control on
17 recommended wilderness and I'll just say other
18 recreational uses in other areas, I'm not quite sure --

19 MR. SMOLEN: So --

20 MS. MARTEN: Yeah, help me with what you
21 mean by that.

22 MR. SMOLEN: What I mean, as our objections
23 stated, we are not supporting the creation of more
24 recommended wilderness areas. Therefore, we would be in
25 more control of it staying the way it is but allowing the

1 local superintendent to say This area is allowed for this
2 use, this use, this use, and it would just not be RWA.

3 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

4 Dave, did you have your hand up? Was there a
5 hand over here? I thought I saw one.

6 MS. LUNDSTRUM: I was waving --

7 MS. TRIBE: You were getting ready to?

8 MS. LUNDSTRUM: Well, I was going to but
9 you said you wanted to sit down -- or stand up.

10 MS. TRIBE: Well, I want to take the last
11 comments before we do that.

12 Did you have your hand up, Brian?

13 MR. PECK: No, but I could put it up if
14 you'd like.

15 MS. TRIBE: So would you make your comment,
16 then we'll see if we can get Brian to say something.

17 MS. LUNDSTRUM: Sarah Lundstrum. I suspect
18 I'm loud enough without the microphone. I just wanted to
19 say, as our Whitefish Range Partnership, when we worked
20 together, we did recommend wilderness in the North Fork.
21 At the same time that we were doing that, we also found
22 new areas for potential snowmobiling in the North Fork.
23 And our agreement was sort of based on a three-legged
24 stool, which was recreation, wilderness and timber. And
25 if we pull that wilderness out, then our stool falls

1 down. So we found trade-offs. And we don't think that
2 they're unreasonable to have recommended wilderness in
3 the North Fork but potential for increased snowmobiling
4 in this other area of the North Fork. So I just wanted
5 to bring up that in terms of your guys's objection, we
6 actually did find ways and not that Amendment 24 allowed
7 you to ride in the recommended wilderness that's proposed
8 now, but we actually did find more space for
9 snowmobiling.

10 MR. SMOLEN: So that was discussed. But
11 that did not make it into the plan, as I understand it.
12 The areas in Thicket Creek and other areas were not
13 added.

14 MS. MARTEN: They are.

15 MR. SMOLEN: All right.

16 MS. LUNDSTRUM: So yeah, so we found space.
17 So you know, there is room, and there's room for both
18 snowmobiling and recommended wilderness in a lot of these
19 places.

20 MS. TRIBE: Well, and that might give you
21 an opportunity to talk to Sarah a little bit about it at
22 the break.

23 MS. MARTEN: And I appreciate you bringing
24 that up because that was one of the things I was briefed
25 up, but that was a misunderstanding. It was added and is

1 part of it.

2 Mr. SMOLEN: This gets back to my original
3 comment of if I could see it more clearly --

4 MR. WEBER: We're hearing that.

5 MS. TRIBE: Brian, please.

6 MR. PECK: Well, listening to everyone,
7 there were a bunch of things I hadn't intended to comment
8 on, but I guess I've been provoked, so I will. Several
9 people mentioned that we in this area in the Flathead,
10 particularly, we've got plenty of wilderness, we don't
11 really need any more. And there's a misconception that
12 somewhere in the Wilderness Act there's a quota system.
13 And it says, you know, Okay; that's enough, that's it.
14 You've got 52-and-three-quarter percent, no more
15 wilderness. There's no quota system. It depends on the
16 wilderness value of an area, period, full stop, that's
17 it. So there isn't a quota.

18 Seventy or eighty years ago Aldo Leopold said
19 Wilderness is a resource that can decline but never
20 increase. And so we have to protect what we have got.
21 Because once you lose it, the chance of getting it back
22 is infinitesimally small. So that is what I would
23 advocate for. Let's protect what we've got as our
24 population is increasing in the Flathead, in Montana, as
25 outdoor recreation is a major economic driver in Montana

1 and certainly in the northwest. If we don't protect a
2 whole bunch now, then all of a sudden thirty and forty
3 years from now, folks are going to be saying What the
4 hell were they thinking? We let all this stuff go.

5 An example is the Whitefish Range. If we
6 walked around in the Whitefish Range fifty or sixty years
7 ago, there was like half a million acres of what we would
8 all consider wilderness. Well, now in the current plan,
9 we're down to less than 200,000 that was even
10 considerable as wilderness. And the forest plan is going
11 to settle for 80,000 of that. That means 420,000
12 are -- they're gone or they will be gone or they will not
13 be considered. So wilderness is a resource that can
14 shrink but not increase. And the Whitefish Range is a
15 classic example.

16 I've seen several documents from Fish, Wildlife
17 and Parks about mountain biking in carnivore country.
18 And they've essentially said There's no way to do it
19 safely. Cannot be done safely. You just have to say
20 Okay; are we willing to put up with risk? And this all
21 came from the Brad Treat incident a few years back. And
22 I know a whole bunch of people that have nearly run into
23 bears on Forest roads, not trails, but roads. So I think
24 we have to put that in the mix and say Are we
25 consciously -- if we ramp up more mechanized use, more

1 bike use in recommended wilderness, are we putting bears
2 and cougars and everything else in conflict with each
3 other where maybe that's not a good idea.

4 I guess as the only other comment I had, there
5 were some comments about it would be better to have more
6 local control, more control by Chip, the local
7 superintendent. And I would just remind everybody it's a
8 national forest. It's not Brian Peck's forest. I'm a
9 local, but I don't support local control of a national
10 resource. I think we need to keep in mind that all those
11 inconvenient people in Chicago and Boston and Atlanta and
12 San Francisco, damn, you know, they all got a piece of
13 the action. So that's it. That's all I have.

14 MS. TRIBE: Thank you. I'm not sure you're
15 finished yet, but we've got a ways to go.

16 Brent, please, would you finish this and then
17 we'll take a quick break.

18 MR. MORROW: Brent Morrow, Swan Valley.
19 This gentleman really stated it well and all the folks
20 here that have talked about no mechanized equipment,
21 bicycles, whatever, in wilderness. We haven't had them
22 in there since the creation of the wilderness -- '64
23 Wilderness Act. And the areas that we're talking about
24 now, the Jewel Basin, 12,000-plus acres, 28 subalpine
25 lakes, trails, the adjacent Bunker-Sullivan area places

1 like that, to me, it's personal, it's sacred ground.

2 My family at the time of my great grandparents,
3 I have some old photographs of them up there about 1900,
4 1901 picking huckleberries and recreating. It's an area
5 that -- it's an old cliché saying, but wilderness does
6 not exist as an island. You can't manage it from the
7 foundry. The subareas around it, the study areas now
8 taken out of service and proposed for other uses, it's
9 just ridiculous. You lose the wild character. You lose
10 the flow of wildlife corridors moving in and out, the
11 solitude. I'm for the wilderness extensions in that
12 area. I'd like to see it go clear up to Columbia
13 Mountain and Alpine Trail. I think it's ridiculous the
14 thin soils and high areas up there over 6,000, 7,000
15 feet, that should all be designated wilderness, to the
16 Swan Range. It's a finite resource, folks. And we're
17 not making any more of it to talk about because we really
18 need to preserve it here.

19 We have a burgeoning population in this
20 country. Three hundred thirty million people, highly
21 recreation view still to -- Glacier Lake trailhead in the
22 Mission Mountains on a Saturday, and there's 55 vehicles
23 in the parking lot. And it's not going to get any
24 better. And areas eventually it's going to be like the
25 Coal Lake areas around Glacier and places, we are going

1 to have to limit use and times and even camping. And
2 possibly in some areas there may be some horse limits
3 like the Jewel is a special area unto itself in that way.
4 And I'm not anti-horse or anti-motorcycle. I'm a
5 mountain biker, I'm a hiker. And that's some of the
6 things I have to say in support of the wilderness, the
7 extensions and no mechanized.

8 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

9 MR. MORROW: Thank you.

10 MR. WINDBIGLER: Can I quickly address what
11 they said before we break?

12 MS. TRIBE: Of course.

13 MR. WINDBIGLER: You're talking -- quoting
14 Aldo Leopold, Wilderness cannot be created, only lost.
15 We found that's not true. We have created wilderness in
16 the Welcome Creek Wilderness area where a logging mill
17 used to sit right in the center of it. All that
18 wilderness out in the Lakes Wilderness, those areas we're
19 looking at here, they've been logged, they've been ridden
20 by bicycles, they've been snowmobiled, they've been
21 everything else. And they've been put right back to
22 wilderness. I just wanted to add that.

23 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

24 MS. MARTEN: So thank you, everyone. We'll
25 continue on, but maybe take -- the group is okay if we

1 take a quick stretch break from that? The one thing as
2 we're doing that, though, a couple seeds for thought.
3 One of the things when we come back, I'd like to tease
4 out a little bit more on the local control. Because I've
5 heard it referenced a couple different times, but I don't
6 think it's with the same -- I think people are referring
7 to it a little differently. So I'm just going to need
8 some help with that part of it.

9 And then the other thing I'd just remind us,
10 and you guys are doing a wonderful job, obviously we have
11 a lot of passion around this and we have some different
12 perspective with it. And again, no one's right or wrong,
13 there is not a this is the right way, this is the wrong
14 way. This is very helpful for me putting some context on
15 some of the things I've been reading. Obviously I've
16 been part of these dialogues, not necessarily locally
17 here on the Flathead, but I have extensive background in
18 many of these things tested out all across the nation.

19 And for those of you that don't know, a
20 previous job of mine was the national director of
21 wilderness wild and scenic rivers for the agency. So
22 that's some of the perspective that I'm thinking on the
23 different types of comments and the context that I'm
24 trying to get a feel for you here on the Flathead. And
25 that's where I need to tease out a little bit more

1 because, just like you guys, I have some different lenses
2 I see and read things through. So I want to make sure
3 that I'm seeing them through your view as I'm looking at
4 your objections and moving forward from that perspective.

5 So Ginny, what you think? Just a quick
6 stretch.

7 MS. TRIBE: Let's take five, six minutes.

8 MS. MARTEN: Feel free to use the
9 restrooms, coffee and water and stuff like that. We'll
10 continue on, but really appreciate it.

11 (Proceedings in recess from 2:57 p.m. to
12 3:07 p.m.)

13 MS. MARTEN: Thank you, folks. Thanks for
14 coming back after the short break on that. So one of the
15 things I'd like to build off of and get your help with,
16 and I'm not sure if I can articulate this question real
17 clear, so please ask questions back to me.

18 But I mentioned right before we went to break
19 that one of the things that I'm hearing that I could use
20 your help with, is I've heard a couple different people
21 refer to making sure the Forest supervisor, Chip Weber,
22 maintains or is able to maintain local control. And so
23 I'm curious with the recommended wilderness areas, and
24 I'm going to go back to the Bunker Hill, Sullivan Creek
25 and Jewel Basin just as a starting point. As the draft

1 decision is written and as the plan is currently written,
2 is there something in there that worries you or isn't
3 meeting your needs where you feel you're losing control
4 or Chip would not have the authority or control of
5 implementing the forest plan as written in the plan
6 components? I'm just -- I'm confused. And I'm not quite
7 tracking, I don't think, with the way some of you are
8 seeing the local control. And that's where I mentioned I
9 don't want to see it through my lens, I need to see it
10 through yours.

11 MR. VITALE: I'd like to make the first
12 comment on that. I had the opportunity, the good fortune
13 to work on the Whitefish Range collaborative. And it
14 really opened my mind up and yet that was a local
15 collaborative. It was open to the public. It wasn't a
16 closed collaborative. In fact, I commend the Forest
17 Service. We had a lot of these good folks, really. At
18 every meeting there was Forest Service represented to
19 help guide us and keep us in a straight line. We had
20 boundaries and parameters we had to work with.

21 And I also agree with what was said about this
22 is a national forest and every American has a right to
23 have input. But I do -- I came away with a more open
24 mind, sitting across the table from people with different
25 opposing views of mine. And there is a lot of wiggle

1 room.

2 And I think as far as local control, I think
3 that has to be considered. I think somebody like Chip,
4 who has a lot of responsibility, has to look and see how
5 different opposing local issues with the wide spectrum of
6 this. This is National Forest and every American has the
7 right to have input into this. But I'm a real strong
8 believer of the collaborative process. I've seen it
9 work. Whether we like it or not, one fellow over here
10 was opposed to the Blackfoot-Clearwater deal. Well,
11 there's some good things that came out of that and there
12 are some things that I don't particularly like. And I'm
13 not Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act, these are local
14 collaboratives that people that live and work in the area
15 had a lot of input in. So I am a fan of that, with the
16 broad view of it is national forest and somebody in New
17 York City has just as much right to have input if they
18 should choose to do that.

19 MS. MARTEN: So Frank, can I ask you with
20 the draft decision as written in the plan, do you feel
21 like it's written in a way that would prevent exactly
22 what you just described from occurring?

23 MR. VITALIE: I probably am not good to
24 answer that question.

25 MS. MARTEN: Okay; that's fair. Thanks.

1 MS. TRIBE: Dave.

2 MR. HADDON: Dave Haddon. I participated
3 in the partnership as well and commented on their aspect
4 of the Forest. And to directly answer your question, I
5 think the forest plan highly reflects local interest,
6 probably to the detriment to the national interest in
7 some respects. So I don't think that the local forest
8 planning team did anything that didn't really fully
9 incorporate local opinion. I think it's written clearly
10 with a lot of local consideration, without question.

11 MS. MARTEN: So Dave, is it fair for me,
12 then, to take that one more step further and say for
13 future implementation of the plan, you don't feel like
14 it's written in a way or that Chip's decision would
15 preclude it from continuing to happen as it has with
16 local collaboration being the key part of implementation
17 of the various plan components.

18 MR. HADDON: I don't understand that
19 question.

20 MS. MARTEN: And this is the part that I'm
21 trying to tease out my brain. So what I hear you and
22 Frank saying is with the Whitefish Range Partnership,
23 just as an example as we move through the forest planning
24 process, you guys feel comfortable and confident that the
25 local input and the collaboration process was definitely

1 taken into account throughout the plan and is accurately
2 reflected in the plan. Not that all the agreements were
3 there but the collaboration process. I'm going one step
4 further on the actual implementation, the site-specific
5 implementation of the various activities in the plan, be
6 it trail maintenance, be it the wilderness, be it the
7 timber, the stuff we've talked about this morning and
8 moving forward with local collaboration and input on the
9 actual how we go about implementing the plan on the
10 ground. Do you feel like that there's anything
11 precluding that from occurring and continuing to occur.

12 MR. HADDON: No.

13 MS. MARTEN: Okay. And I don't know if
14 that helped, folks. With the wilderness -- thinking the
15 recommended wilderness and implementation, that's part of
16 what I'm trying to just muddle through in my own brain
17 when folks are talking about local authority, how you're
18 seeing that.

19 MR. HADDON: I guess I'm seeing a trend
20 towards more collaborative process. I think there's a
21 trend towards local collaboration more and more so. I
22 feel like the rangers are getting out ahead of projects
23 and giving the public ample time to comment and
24 participate. I don't think that I've seen that being
25 reduced at all.

1 MS. MARTEN: Thank you.

2 MS. TRIBE: And Sarah and Noah both had a
3 comment.

4 MS. LUNDSTRUM: Sarah Lundstrum. And just
5 in general, I think that this Forest, particularly with
6 Chip at the helm, has done a very good job of listening
7 to collaboratives, and I don't think that this forest
8 plan is going to change that in any way. I think it sets
9 the stage in a lot of ways for the greater potential for
10 collaboration in the future.

11 I do think, and I'm not speaking for myself,
12 but I do think that there is a perception from some folks
13 or from some places that things like recommended
14 wilderness, because it comes with a sort of specific
15 management outline already, that that is not considered
16 to be local control, that that seems like it's coming
17 from Washington, D.C. And so I think that's where things
18 happen. Is that wilderness areas, obviously, are
19 designated by Congress. So technically, yeah, it does
20 come from D.C., managed by local but -- so I think that's
21 the difference is when you're talking about local control
22 versus coming from D.C., I think it tends more towards
23 recommended wilderness and wilderness than any other
24 management area that we have.

25 MS. MARTEN: So let me tease that out a

1 little bit more on that, if you don't mind. So what I
2 hear you saying is when wilderness is designated in
3 Congress, however that legislation is written, it does
4 obviously put sideboards on what is or is not, or could
5 put sideboards on what is or is not, allowed within that
6 area. For instance, we have wildernesses in the United
7 States that have airstrips in them. We have wildernesses
8 that allow snowmobiles, have power lines. We have some
9 that don't allow any of those uses. So as you guys are
10 very much more aware than I am on the variety of ways
11 things can be legislated for designated wilderness. So
12 understand that. So for the recommended wilderness part
13 of it, did I understand you say you felt like that's also
14 being dictated, i.e. -- not you, but what you just said,
15 or help me.

16 MS. LUNDSTRUM: I think that the
17 relationship between recommended wilderness and
18 wilderness, when it comes to management, in some people's
19 mind makes it feel like it's coming from D.C. And I
20 think that's where you see the difference between local
21 control and control from back east.

22 MS. MARTEN: That helps; thank you.

23 MS. LUNDSTRUM: That's what I think.
24 That's what I'm reading, but I don't feel that way.

25 MS. TRIBE: And Noah, you were ready. Then

1 I'm coming over here, then I'm going to see if I can get
2 some folks over there to start talking.

3 MR. BODMAN: This is Noah Bodman. I'm not
4 sure this comment goes exactly to what your question is.
5 But I think this gets to a lot of what our objection is
6 where the plan says that mechanized travel is not allowed
7 in recommended wilderness. And I think that essentially
8 removes any local control from that discussion. The
9 planning rule says that the administrator has discretion.
10 But by this forest plan saying Here's the conclusion,
11 mechanized travel isn't allowed in recommended
12 wilderness, that removes that discretion that the
13 planning rule dictates. And so, essentially, it's
14 removing local control.

15 MS. MARTEN: Okay.

16 MR. BODMAN: The other comment I wanted to
17 make, which is on a slightly different topic, but getting
18 to our discussion earlier, I think there was a lot of
19 discussion about user conflicts and how to manage those.
20 And my preference would be that it's the highest level of
21 local control. That would be on a trail-by-trail basis.
22 That would probably be something that a district ranger
23 could make the call on whether certain uses needed to be
24 restricted. And so I don't think the plan as written
25 restricts that, except to the extent that recommended

1 wilderness would be used as a tool to limit user conflict
2 than it is limiting that local control of the district
3 ranger to make a case-by-case decision on a
4 trail-by-trail basis. And my point is that I think using
5 recommended wilderness to control user conflicts seems
6 just like that's an awfully big hammer when maybe a
7 scalpel is what's needed.

8 MS. MARTEN: Thank you.

9 MS. TRIBE: Do you want to make the last
10 one here?

11 MR. SMOLEN: This is Mark Smolen. I
12 totally agree with Noah. I think that's where I was
13 seeing it as well. The definition of RWA sort of
14 handcuffs Chip. And it takes the scalpel out of his
15 hands and puts a big sledgehammer in, instead of now
16 you're just saying because it's RWA this is all that can
17 happen. And the way the plan is written saying
18 nonmechanized, done. And it just -- it doesn't allow for
19 that scalpel to go in and say No, we could do it here.

20 MS. MARTEN: Okay; that helps.

21 MR. BLACKLER: Edd Blackler. By talking
22 about trail-by-trail, dicing things up, you're
23 overlooking the possibility of how an area needs to be
24 managed for wildlife, in particular. You can't just
25 divide it and say Well, it's okay to run the mechanized

1 vehicles up on this trail in the middle of an area that's
2 been designated for a purpose and the purpose
3 being -- one of the purposes being that it's there to
4 protect the corridors for wildlife. And also, it's
5 managed for erosion and those kinds of things which takes
6 a lot of consideration. So you don't want to piecemeal
7 it too much under the auspices of Well, we want local
8 control. Because you should have a plan that's justified
9 on an overall basis that has some broad aspects to it,
10 not just piecemealing things apart by the idea of going
11 trail-by-trail. That would drive Chip crazy anyway.
12 He'd have people in his office every day with Well, we
13 really like this trail, can you possibly change this for
14 us? That isn't going to work.

15 MS. MARTEN: Or he'd be sitting here
16 holding his head. Thank you.

17 MR. WEBER: It would drive me someplace I
18 already am.

19 MS. TRIBE: Jake, I'm coming.

20 MR. LARSON: I think that local control,
21 when you're talking about that in terms of responding to
22 truly collaborative efforts, is a great thing. The
23 danger is that it deteriorated, if you will, into
24 whoever's screaming the loudest wins. So that is
25 whatever group is making the most noise in Chip's office

1 is the one that's going to prevail. That's what I
2 wouldn't like to see.

3 MS. MARTEN: And I understand that.

4 MR. LARSON: That cuts two ways, too.

5 MS. MARTEN: So just to clarify, John,
6 you're saying that -- what I think I heard you say is the
7 collaborative effort is very positive.

8 MR. LARSON: Absolutely.

9 MS. MARTEN: However, a true collaborative
10 effort is you make sure it isn't the loudest. I.e., you
11 could have different groups working, but just because one
12 maybe, as you said, is screaming the loudest, to be truly
13 collaborative, regardless of how often or how vocal, it's
14 listening and being truly open to all the views and take
15 them into account. But it can be a very slippery slope
16 if you're not purposeful about that.

17 MR. LARSON: Yes.

18 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

19 Jake, you are next.

20 MR. KREILICK: I've been developing a
21 fairly long and deep critique about collaboration in the
22 last few months, just in my own head. And I'm not going
23 to get into all of that now because it's sort of outside
24 of the realm. But you know, in the context of the public
25 process and how the agency is proceeding around this

1 forest plan revision, I have issues, definitely, with how
2 the collaboration went forth. I do feel like it's not
3 equal, you know, in terms of resources, in terms of how
4 these processes on district or Forest levels, how they
5 really hit the ground. I found on the project level,
6 okay, fairly effective. But where I'm now kind of a
7 critic is I don't feel like it's an appropriate mechanism
8 for wilderness for designating wilderness. There's too
9 much at stake in terms of the larger landscape, all the
10 laws and all of the previous management designations that
11 are impacted by this. So I think it's the wrong tool for
12 designating wilderness. That would be my comment around
13 this.

14 Having participated in it for about seven
15 years, the Lolo Restoration Committee, the Lemhi County
16 Forest Restoration Group down in Salmon and also through
17 FireSafe Montana, generally positive experiences with the
18 people and getting to know folks, you know, trust
19 building. But in the end, I don't really feel like,
20 certainly in my issues, wildlands protection, wilderness
21 designation, these were not priorities. We made some
22 progress on better forest management work on the ground.
23 But on these larger, overarching issues, I think because
24 the values are so different, it makes it very hard to
25 kind of come to terms and make it fair.

1 I don't think it is fair because there have
2 been a lot of people working to protect our remaining
3 wildlands from long before I was here. I got here in the
4 mid '80s. So we've been fighting for wilderness for a
5 long time. We're going to continue to fight over it.
6 That's what a lot about this is today is what's going to
7 get recommended. No guarantee that we're going to get a
8 bill, you know. We haven't had a bill since -- well, we
9 got the Heritage Act. But I'm talking about the deal
10 with the remaining wildlands in this state. No, there's
11 been no Congress person that's been able to pass
12 anything.

13 So it's going to be these processes where a lot
14 of this work gets done. And as I said, I think because
15 they do belong to each and every American, they're
16 supposed to be managed in the public trust according to
17 that public trust doctrine, and that is definitely not
18 local control. That is not local control at all.

19 MS. MARTEN: Thanks.

20 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

21 Dave.

22 MR. HADDON: Dave Haddon. Just to balance
23 out my comment about there being plenty of local control,
24 I think to some degree there's way too much. I mean,
25 these are national forests; we've talked about that. But

1 I understand the Forest Service officials, they live in
2 the environment, they have to be accountable to the local
3 people to a large degree. And I think the recommended
4 wilderness decision, if you look at the national
5 interest, perhaps the Flathead National Forest and this
6 plan on represented wilderness it is a diminished
7 resource. It has high value. So perhaps the Flathead
8 Forest in its plan underrepresented the national interest
9 in that regard. But they made the decision to recommend
10 almost 200,000 acres as recommended wilderness. So they
11 made a hard decision about some landscapes.

12 Now, the regulations, I guess, give the forest
13 supervisor the option to make more local decisions on a
14 case-by-case basis. But that sets up a slippery slope or
15 a situation where those lands that were -- for which the
16 hard decision was made, now will get thrown back into
17 limbo, and a decision ultimately really isn't made. And
18 you set up a social dynamic within the local community
19 where you have the fight continue. And I don't think
20 that's healthy. I think the Forest Service should make a
21 decision and should make a decision to protect those
22 values, because they're already representing them, as far
23 as I'm concerned, on the Flathead National Forest.

24 So there are multiple values represented in
25 recommended wilderness. The only real interests that are

1 not represented, as you all know, are forms of mechanized
2 and motorized recreation in certain extractive practices.
3 So you really are protecting numerous Forest values that
4 are guaranteed by law. So I just think -- I would just
5 like to add that in to the fact that there is a lot of
6 local public support for the National Forest, a lot of
7 local input, but that the Forest Service -- it's a hard
8 decision. You look at Bunker-Sullivan. It really looks
9 to me like it's unmanageable. And the real values there
10 as I think Amy spoke to in terms of the values I spoke to
11 in terms of that being a really core area for wildlife.
12 So much more could be done there than the recommended
13 wilderness that's there. It could be much larger. And
14 it could really protect those values, all the way from
15 the gate of Bunker Creek that abuts the Bob Marshall all
16 the way up and over to Sullivan Creek. That could be a
17 really great area, and you could make a hard decision
18 about that that would really protect those values. And
19 the values that would be sacrificed very, very minimal
20 mechanized use and zero, really, motorized use.

21 I just advocate for making the hard decision
22 and sticking by it. Because you're going to set up a
23 social dynamic that's going to keep this issue
24 unresolved.

25 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Dave.

1 In fact, what I was going to do next is I was
2 going to come over to you and say Let's start over there
3 with you, Doug, and see if there are other comments. So
4 please.

5 MR. NORMAN: Doug Norman from Cut Bank.
6 Now, I'm the outsider. We do the Lewis and Clark side
7 mainly other than Skyland Road. You guys are very
8 knowledgeable on this up in your own areas, and it's
9 great. I've seen the process going on since the early
10 '80s. Been a little bit involved, I was young. I was
11 probably thirty then. Lets you know how old I am.

12 The Forest Service on the Lewis and Clark side
13 always talked about a buffer zone. Anytime you got a
14 wilderness, you have to have a buffer zone. What the
15 heck's a buffer zone? Well, that's to keep Joe Public
16 away from the wilderness with his snowmobile, motorcycle,
17 whatever, game cart, bicycle, now. Ranchers on the Rocky
18 Mountain Front, they made an agreement to shut those
19 gates so that they wouldn't get up in towards the Bob
20 Marshall, up in that high country. And they could go
21 back in there with Jeeps and stuff and fence. They used
22 to fence back in there. And so they made the Rocky
23 Mountain Heritage Site, which could be a wilderness by
24 the next president, who knows. Just because it isn't.
25 But what happens with the wilderness is then you need

1 another buffer zone.

2 So what you give up for a wilderness up in
3 Bunker, I don't even know where Bunker Creek is; okay?
4 Sounds like it's going to be up that creek a ways and
5 it's going to be designated wilderness halfway up. But
6 they're going to need it at the bottom of the creek,
7 those gates will be shut because you need that buffer
8 zone. Great Bear Wilderness wasn't even a wilderness
9 when I moved to Cut Bank and they had a buffer zone. Now
10 they got gates shut, they got catwalks made. This is
11 what you do. This is how it happens.

12 The next forest supervisor that's hired for the
13 Flathead is going to forget all of these agreements that
14 we sit here and make. They forgot on the Lewis and
15 Clark. We had a corridor -- you're talking about
16 corridors -- in the Badger-Two Medicine, with Max Baucus,
17 met in Cut Bank at Glacier Electric. If you guys would
18 just snowmobile or four-wheel in this corridor, it would
19 sure make us happy because we do have a few mountain
20 goats up on top of this one mountain Lee Creek Ridge.
21 Well, we'll sure do that. Well, that's gone. And the
22 last time we met with them, they never heard about a
23 corridor. What? What kind of agreement was that? So
24 unless it's in law, the next guy forgets. The next group
25 that are working for the Forest Service back there in the

1 back table, they don't know about it.

2 A little history, this is just kind of for
3 whatever, us merchants -- I got a business in Cut Bank.
4 Montana State was going to close all the unemployment
5 offices in all the small towns in the State of Montana.
6 So the Montana Retailers Association, along with the
7 Hardware Retailers Association, made an agreement to pay
8 an extra fee on all of your unemployment -- the employers
9 paying this fee to keep these offices open. So I get a
10 call or I hear from the chamber of commerce they're going
11 to close the Cut Bank unemployment office. And I talked
12 to the gal. We had a meeting like this, and I said You
13 can't do that. We're paying a fee to keep these open.
14 You are? Well, I'll check on that. So anyways, the
15 meeting was over and I got a call about a week later.
16 Sure enough, we've been paying to keep these offices
17 open. So she didn't -- they had no idea what that tax
18 was on the payroll tax. Anyways, they forget.

19 Forest Service has a law for wilderness. It
20 says This is how it's managed, period, amen, that's the
21 way it should be managed. If you make it bigger, you're
22 gonna get a bigger buffer zone. It's going to have to.
23 It will have to go down. You cannot put the Forest
24 Service wilderness up against a county road, up against
25 Skyland Road. That's what I'm concerned about it,

1 putting it right up against Skyland Road, have the
2 wilderness line moved up there. So they're going to have
3 to close off more of it to put that safety deal in for a
4 buffer zone. So anyways, a little history. So however
5 you manage your own Flathead over here, good luck. I
6 mean, you're doing a good job. But I just want you to
7 know the next generation will forget these agreements.

8 MS. MARTEN: So thank you, Doug. And
9 there's a lot of folks on the phone that are from the
10 Helena-Lewis and Clark so I'm sure they were listening.

11 But something that I just take note of, several
12 things, but real clarity and being very clear on our
13 decision so the next people that come in twenty years
14 from now, hopefully, we minimize how much is not
15 remembered or unknown. So that's something that we're
16 continuing to work on. And we haven't hit the mark a
17 hundred percent yet but we continue. So thank you on
18 that part. So continue to work with the forest plan.

19 And the other thing that you brought up that
20 I'll just say a note to myself and for folks, is just
21 making sure we're clear, buffer, not buffer, what it
22 means and some of those things. Because I know what
23 you're referring to there, and I've got some of my own
24 experiences throughout my career and stuff. However,
25 it's not a yes, there has to be buffer, no, there's no

1 buffer on that part of it. And if we're not clear about
2 it, it can be confusing from that. So I say that more as
3 a tickler from the standpoint of keeping that in mind and
4 with Chip here, you know, I know he's been thinking about
5 it. But if that isn't clear or if it's just left
6 questionable in folks's mind, then that's something
7 that's good for us to know. Because our intent is not to
8 leave it unclear but to have it very clear throughout the
9 decision and the documentation. So thank you for
10 bringing that up.

11 MS. TRIBE: Doug, thanks for coming over
12 the mountain.

13 MR. NORMAN: You bet.

14 MS. TRIBE: At least you waited until
15 April.

16 Well, if it's all right, I'm going to go to
17 these comments and then I'm going to make sure that
18 anybody who has not spoken has an opportunity and anybody
19 who wants to say a last thing is able to do it. So Kari
20 and Sharon you had your hands up together.

21 DR. GUNDERSON: I wanted to talk a little
22 bit more about buffer zones. And I want to bring up the
23 Colorado Wilderness Act of 1980, which basically was
24 passed because cattle ranchers who had pre-existing
25 leases in what became some of the first wildernesses were

1 worried that future wilderness designations would
2 exclude grazing because of wilderness. So they wanted to
3 protect their interest. But also in that Colorado
4 Wilderness Act, it made it illegal on Forest Service
5 wildernesses for there to be any buffer zones, legal,
6 formal buffer zones. And I want to use the Mission
7 Mountain Wilderness as a case in point. It's a unique
8 wilderness, but it's an island wilderness. It's a long,
9 skinny wilderness. And we are fortunate to share that
10 wilderness with the Salish Kootenai Tribes. It's the
11 first tribally designated wilderness anywhere in the
12 country. Well, their tribal council who listened to
13 their people and their elders and the dyads, saw the
14 importance and they -- because they're not part of the
15 National Wilderness Preservation System -- set aside a
16 buffer zone running along the lower portion of their
17 wilderness to serve as a cushion between the developed
18 valley floor, the Mission Valley, and the wilderness.
19 However, on the National Forest side, we don't have that
20 because of that law. But we also have clear-cuts right
21 up to the wilderness boundary from Plum Creek. Anybody
22 can go up and visit Jim Lakes Basin and see what
23 happened. And that's why I am here today to speak very
24 strongly to support all of the wilderness additions along
25 the east slope of the Mission Mountain Wilderness because

1 the edge of that is unacceptable in places like Jim
2 Lakes. And that was one of the recommended additional
3 wilderness areas for consideration.

4 And as was talked about earlier in our
5 discussion this morning, you know, what Plum Creek, the
6 legacy they left was not good, and there's already been
7 intensive management in -- from the Swan Valley floor up
8 to the wilderness boundary. And so we need those
9 wilderness additions because we can't legally have buffer
10 zones.

11 MS. MARTEN: Thanks, Kari.

12 MS. TRIBE: Sharon, please.

13 MS. LAMAR: I'm speaking as a citizen,
14 Sharon Lamar.

15 MS. TRIBE: Sharon, can I interrupt you a
16 minute?

17 Doug, did you have a question about the
18 Colorado law? Was that -- I just heard you ask Jake and
19 I wondered if other people didn't understand that. You
20 want to clarify that law?

21 DR. GUNDERSON: It just prohibits formal
22 buffer zones.

23 MR. KREILICK: In Colorado.

24 DR. GUNDERSON: No, in all national
25 forests. So wilderness advocates will say We want more

1 wilderness because we can't have buffer zones to any of
2 those edge effects and to protect wildlife travel
3 corridors and water quality for bull trout.

4 MS. TRIBE: So we have a team member over
5 here that had a little clarification, Kari. She wanted
6 to add something.

7 MS. MOORE: So Kari, within wilderness
8 designation, you cannot have a buffer zone.

9 DR. GUNDERSON: Outside. We can't have
10 them outside.

11 MS. MOORE: Okay; I'm thinking of the 2330
12 directive that says you can't have a buffer within the
13 wilderness.

14 DR. GUNDERSON: What would be the point of
15 having a buffer inside wilderness?

16 MS. MOORE: Yeah. Well, you can't buffer
17 it.

18 MR. MORROW: What she's speaking to is the
19 importance of what we're talking about here of the study
20 areas and the issues with mechanized and not and
21 maintaining the character, as I stated earlier, it's an
22 old cliché, wilderness does not exist as an island. And
23 this is a prime example. The study areas are highly
24 critical to maintaining and going forward and keeping
25 them in the study area and keeping them in because we

1 need those buffer boundary areas. We should have them
2 all over the nation. And we should have these additions
3 that are in question today.

4 MS. TRIBE: So I just wanted to make sure
5 that we were clear on what Kari talked about and, again,
6 as you're saying, Kari, is that those areas, in some
7 cases such as in the Missions, serve as a de facto buffer
8 area in a sense. That was our point.

9 MS. MARTEN: And if I could, Ginny, and
10 Ray, I'm looking over at you, I think he's noting this.
11 This whole -- again, the topic of buffer and just being
12 real clear when the final decision is something that I
13 appreciate you bringing up. I had not been thinking
14 buffers. And so the fact there, it just raises something
15 to note and make sure that we're clear on and that we
16 have, however it's worded or not worded or is or is not,
17 people are just very clear what it is or is not from
18 that, any overall intent. So thank you for sharing your
19 experiences on that.

20 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

21 So I wanted to -- is this about the buffer
22 also?

23 MR. NORMAN: No.

24 MS. TRIBE: And Sharon, that's not.

25 Go ahead.

1 MR. NORMAN: Doug Norman, Cut Bank. So you
2 won't -- you will create buffer zones. You have to have
3 a buffer zone. You don't have to, it's not law. But you
4 can't just have wilderness lying and get out of your
5 pickup and go out in the ditch and you're in the
6 wilderness. You're breaking the law, packing a chain saw
7 or whatever you're doing. Or on a motorcycle or bicycle,
8 kids get out there on Skyland Road, and they're riding
9 their bike up there and down there. So don't you need a
10 buffer zone?

11 MS. MARTEN: Well, I think that's, Doug,
12 where it needs to be teased out a little bit more. What
13 you just described as a buffer and I think what some
14 others are describing as a buffer, we're using the same
15 term meaning little different things on that.

16 MR. NORMAN: Well, it's to keep Joe Public
17 from breaking the law. The buffer zone is to barrier
18 that from them getting into that far end, is it not?

19 MS. MARTEN: My interpretation of, not
20 necessarily. Not every place every time when people use
21 buffers. I have a little bit different experience with
22 them. I'm not saying that's wrong, but I'm just saying
23 that isn't every place I've been when people use the term
24 "buffer." So not going to get to a yes or no or a clear
25 answer here, but it's something that obviously needs to

1 be thought through as we move towards a final decision.
2 So thank you.

3 MS. TRIBE: So maybe taking all of those
4 comments about buffers, the thing that you would like,
5 Leanne, to think about is the concept of what happens
6 when another kind of management comes right up to the
7 edge or private land or whatever right up to the edge of
8 a wilderness area.

9 MS. MARTEN: And I'm double-checking for
10 folks on the phone, Ray, who's noting it down so I know
11 it won't get lost, and I know Bambi has it in the
12 transcript. So very helpful; thank you.

13 MS. TRIBE: So Steve, is this still the
14 buffer?

15 MR. WINDBIGLER: Yes.

16 MS. TRIBE: Because I have Sharon waiting.

17 MR. WINDBIGLER: Steve Windbigler. Real
18 quickly I just wanted to talk about what Kari was talking
19 about, the buffer zones being illegal. And I have read
20 that, but I know in Montana in the wilderness areas,
21 there's some places as far as seven miles you hike back
22 in before you actually get to the wilderness line from
23 where the road's closed. We have lots of buffer zones,
24 some of them huge. So we'll see how this goes.

25 MS. MARTEN: See how it goes.

1 MS. TRIBE: So Sharon, what are you
2 thinking?

3 MS. LAMAR: I'm a citizen. I'm a hiker,
4 primarily, a backpacker. And I hike into the Mission
5 Mountain Wilderness, the Bob Marshall, Swan Front, Jewel
6 Basin. So I know those areas well. So I love to hear
7 about everybody using our public lands in whatever way,
8 whether you're a snowmobiler, a biker. I'm a biker too.
9 But I have hundreds of hundreds of miles of roads to use
10 in the back country that I like to bike on. So my point
11 is we all appreciate the wild values of our Forest, and
12 I'm in favor of adding the wilderness -- the areas to the
13 Mission Mountain Wilderness, and I commented on that
14 earlier. Because as Kari said, it's a narrow wilderness,
15 and the areas that were proposed have wonderful wildlife
16 values. And so not only should we be considering all of
17 these comments that we're making today about what our
18 needs are and our wants are but there are those wildlife
19 values that I hope don't get lost in the discussion.

20 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

21 So Amy, I'll take your comment, and then I'm
22 going to consider it the last that you make, just because
23 I want to pick up the people who haven't spoken yet. So,
24 please.

25 MS. ROBINSON: Amy Robinson. I was just

1 going to support a couple of items that you guys were
2 talking about early in the planning process. We got out
3 on the ground and compiled a couple of reports. And I
4 had the fortune to explore and do a lot of bushwhacking
5 in some of those lower elevations, wildlands that are
6 adjacent to the Mission Mountain Wilderness and I think
7 in areas that not very many people go. And so we
8 submitted those reports to you all early in the process
9 for consideration in that revision, obviously.

10 So anyway thanks for reminding me of that,
11 Kari.

12 And then, I also just wanted to not shift gears
13 completely because I know this is an important
14 conversation, but I know we're also running out time.
15 And I just had a couple of remarks I wanted to make about
16 the management of recommended wilderness and like this
17 number 2 here on the back of the briefing sheet. I know
18 that we've heard a lot about bikes in recommended
19 wilderness. And I know that you all are well aware that
20 where my perspective and MWA's perspective is on that so
21 I won't rehash it. But I did just want to clarify on
22 point number 2 here, I wanted to make sure you
23 understood, Leanne, that it says "Some objectors wanted
24 mechanized transport and motorized uses as a standard and
25 not a suitability plan." I think it's more accurate to

1 say "as a standard in addition to the suitability plan."
2 So I just wanted to make sure that was out there, that
3 you guys got that.

4 MS. MARTEN: Okay. Very helpful; thank
5 you. That does -- a little bit different connotation
6 when you put it that way, so thanks.

7 MS. TRIBE: So Mike, I haven't heard from
8 you yet. I heard from you earlier today.

9 MR. ANDERSON: I know, when I was in
10 audience. Well, I've really enjoyed the discussion
11 today. Mike Anderson from The Wilderness Society.

12 First, I did want to make sure I complemented
13 the Forest Service on over six years' worth of great work
14 I believe on this plan revision. The Chapter 70
15 wilderness process is lengthy, but I think the Forest
16 Service has done a credible job of implementing that. I
17 think -- I congratulate the Forest Service on taking this
18 collaborative approach especially on the Whitefish Range
19 Partnership. I think that's a great precedent nationally
20 for the Forest Service and planning process. The
21 Wilderness Society's been working closely with Montana
22 Wilderness Association throughout the process, and we are
23 very much seeing eye to eye on our recommendations and
24 our concerns here.

25 The main thing I wanted to bring up today is

1 just that we're not comfortable with how the wilderness
2 management suitability plan component is kind of left
3 hanging in the record of the decision in terms of when
4 implementation actually takes place. We feel that
5 there's a need for some greater specificity, some clarity
6 about when the trail closures or whatever would be
7 implemented. Or if there is going to be a follow-up
8 process, we don't want it to be taking place ten, twenty
9 years from now. We want to have some time specificity on
10 that, if that is the approach. Our preference is to take
11 more of a standards approach like the Kootenai plan did.
12 But the approach that you're taking now with the
13 suitability is a valid one, but we would like to see more
14 specificity regarding when that follow-up process will be
15 completed.

16 MS. MARTEN: And that's actually in the raw
17 that you're referring to, more desire for specifics and
18 implementation part of it.

19 MR. ANDERSON: Correct.

20 MS. MARTEN: Thank you, Mike.

21 MS. TRIBE: So I'm going this way.

22 Mark, did you have anything else to say? Okay.

23 Edd, are you okay.

24 MR. BLACKLER: Thank you for allowing this
25 to take place today, and appreciate the input we've been

1 able to listen to. And I encourage you to move forward
2 and preserve as much wilderness as you can and specify
3 who gets to do what where.

4 MS. TRIBE: Thank you. We call that
5 zoning.

6 Steve?

7 MR. WINDBIGLER: One of the things I wanted
8 just to remind you is that anytime you're taking
9 something from one group and giving it to another, really
10 consider that. You know, is that really fair to take and
11 say Okay, this group has a huge area they can use and
12 we're going to take and grab some more from these other
13 people and give them that. For example, horseback and
14 hikers, we can use the entire National Forest. But we're
15 talking about here taking a bunch more and saying only
16 they can use it. And everybody who's mechanized or using
17 any other source can't use it anymore, even though they
18 historically have. We really have to consider is that
19 something you want to do?

20 MS. MARTEN: Thanks, Steve; thank you.

21 Jerry, did you have any last comment?

22 MR. O'NEIL: Absolutely. If we were to put
23 the Whitefish Range into primitive recreation area, we
24 could do the agreement with the collaborative plan came
25 up with and do this part for this and this part for this,

1 all in this primitive recreational area. And then if
2 conditions changed, we can go locally and change that
3 rather than a federal law, act of Congress. It's much
4 easier to adjust for conditions locally than it is
5 Washington, D.C. Thank you.

6 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

7 Anything else, Doug?

8 MR. NORMAN: No; thank you.

9 MS. TRIBE: Jake.

10 MR. KREILICK: Yeah, I've got just a couple
11 of points. One, increase in party size to 35 stock, 15
12 people wilderness is way too much. We believe this is
13 really going to degrade the trail system and put a lot of
14 impacts around the campgrounds. So we would like the
15 agency to consider just limiting it to 15 to 15.

16 Finally, we would like the Forest Service to
17 confirm if the existing management plan and the limits of
18 acceptable change is still in effect or is it being
19 replaced by the new plan. So that's a question we'd like
20 to confirm on that.

21 And obviously, you heard me; we're for
22 protecting every last.

23 MS. TRIBE: Leanne, did you need a
24 clarification?

25 MS. MARTEN: Well, I just wanted to make

1 sure folks captured those couple questions. Thank you.

2 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Jake.

3 Steve, I don't think we've heard from you yet.

4 MR. GNIADEK: Steve Gniadek.

5 And Hi, Wendy.

6 I would like to comment on wilderness wildlife
7 and core, but let me defer that for a moment and try to
8 address some of the things that I've been hearing.

9 I share mixed feelings about collaboration like
10 the Whitefish Range Partnership. Some of the things I
11 heard suggest that it's local and then it's not local,
12 and I'm a little confused by that. Seems to me it's a
13 very local undertaking that while it may represent to
14 some extent national interest through MPCA, MWA, but
15 largely is a local endeavor and so it does sort of
16 preclude the national interest in that collaboration.
17 And since the National Forests are national, then those
18 other people have a say as well as the local people. So
19 it's a balance, and it should be a balance.

20 It seems ironic when, if it ever becomes law
21 and becomes big W wilderness out of that process, all of
22 a sudden it's Washington telling us what to do when it's
23 actually a local collaboration. So we need to put that
24 in context.

25 I was disturbed by some of the discussion about

1 precluding uses. I understand that. But earlier in the
2 process I commented on terms like "constrained,"
3 constraining decision space. And we heard some of that
4 that designated wilderness constraint, decisions based
5 when, actually, every decision constrains decision space.
6 And we need to be careful of using those terms that if
7 you decide to harvest in an area or allow motorized
8 vehicles on a trail or bikes on a trail, you've precluded
9 other decisions. So let's be careful of the use of how
10 we use "constraining."

11 Well, let me jump to wilderness. I appreciate
12 the value of wilderness for quiet recreation, solitude,
13 and I use it for that. And maybe all too often
14 wilderness advocates see it as a user group versus user
15 group kind of contention. But I, as a wildlife biologist
16 for over forty years, my experience tells me that
17 wilderness is an extremely important value to wildlife,
18 period, whether you're talking about teeny species of
19 conservation concern for all wildlife. I've worked over
20 my career with a number of wildlife working groups
21 developing strategies for grizzly bears, for lynx,
22 wolverine, a variety of species. And the thing that
23 keeps coming up in those groups is core, core habitat.
24 And to me that's big W wilderness. The best core you can
25 have is wilderness. It's the most protective of

1 wildlife. Not simply of those T and E or special
2 concerned species but all wildlife. And I see it in the
3 context of the broadest possible meaning of wildlife,
4 from dicky birds to small mammals to invertebrates. The
5 whole realm of what we might call biodiversity is best
6 protected in wilderness areas, secondary to maybe in
7 roadless and other areas. But when you step out of
8 wilderness and talk about local control, there are
9 problems with future decisions that can change how that
10 is affecting those areas.

11 So rather than reiterate why I supported
12 wilderness, I just wanted to give some context to that,
13 that it's based on the belief that wilderness is the best
14 form of protection for wildlife. I'll leave it at that.

15 MS. MARTEN: Thanks.

16 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Steve.

17 John, did you have anything?

18 MR. LARSON: John Larson. Just real
19 briefly, regarding Bunker Creek, Sullivan Creek. One of
20 the species up there is mountain goats. And although
21 they're not threatened or endangered, that local
22 population -- I'm not even sure it exists anymore.
23 Localized populations are in deep trouble. So hopefully
24 we can protect them.

25 MS. TRIBE: Sharon.

1 MS. MARTEN: If I could, Ginny, so we've
2 been bringing up wildlife which I really appreciate. And
3 we won't get into everything on wildlife, but it is on
4 the agenda. I know that many of you will be here
5 tomorrow and be participating in that. So like I said
6 earlier this morning, many of these things I know because
7 that's part of natural resource management, it all kind
8 of overlaps. But I appreciate you bringing up the
9 perspective from the recommended wilderness standpoint as
10 well, so thank you.

11 MS. TRIBE: That will also help you
12 tomorrow to put context around wildlife. So thank you.

13 Sharon, any other?

14 MS. LAMAR: No.

15 MS. TRIBE: Kari, anything else?

16 DR. GUNDERSON: Just three quick points. I
17 wanted to point out that Ken Cordell, who was a research
18 scientist in the southeast region, and other researchers
19 have looked at projected wilderness into the future. And
20 as our population grows, the wilderness will grow. It
21 will diversify but the demand will not drop for
22 wilderness.

23 Another point I wanted to bring up is if you
24 looked at the Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness designation
25 in Idaho, they did decide to put some cherry-stem

1 mountain bike access in, but they had to beef up their
2 wilderness ranger patrols. They had to increase law
3 enforcement patrols. And in the light of budget cuts,
4 sometimes wilderness rangers are the first ones to go.
5 Everybody wants trails open, but wilderness rangers
6 sometimes get the short end of the deal. And in my
7 thirty-five years working in the back country, you know,
8 law enforcement was far and few between. The acreage
9 that they are responsible for is ridiculous. They cannot
10 begin to be everywhere they need to be to monitor illegal
11 snowmobile trespass, chain saw use, mountain bike use,
12 where they're not to be. So I think we need to throw
13 those elements into the recipe as well.

14 And also as far as adding new wilderness that
15 maybe had some scars of the past, that's why the Eastern
16 Wilderness Act was passed or we wouldn't have any
17 wilderness in the East Coast because of all of the early
18 settlement. And now those are valuable historic and
19 cultural resources.

20 And the last thing on buffer zones, believe it
21 or not, there are wildernesses in Arizona where the
22 wilderness boundary stops at a sidewalk. I don't ever
23 want to see that happen here. We are very lucky but, you
24 know, people are hiking down trails leaving the
25 wilderness, and they can see people's swimming pools and

1 what's on their TV screen in their houses.

2 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Kari. Thank you for
3 that visual.

4 Brent, did you have anything else?

5 MR. MORROW: Brent Morrow, Swan Valley. I
6 guess I would just echo support for things that Kari just
7 discussed. It's a finite resource, folks. I'll say it
8 again. From the upper north end of the Swan Range clear
9 down past Holland Lake and the addition in the Missions.
10 It's vital. And as we go forward, we're going to need
11 that for the enjoyment of an expanding American
12 population and for folks who visit from around the world.

13 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

14 Brian, anything?

15 MR. PECK: Brian Peck. Last night I was
16 looking through appendix 4, which is on recommended
17 wilderness. And so I was going through each of the 25
18 areas that were evaluated. And what I expected to find
19 at the end of each one of those evaluations for criteria
20 and each one is Here's why we chose that or Here's why we
21 excluded that. And I never found it in there. And I'm
22 wondering, is it somewhere else in the document? It
23 seemed pretty basic, if you're going to eliminate 17
24 areas, it would be good if we had a fairly detailed
25 Here's why Canyon Creek was eliminated, Here's why Coal

1 was eliminated.

2 MS. MARTEN: Yeah. And I would say the
3 simple answer is yes. And Marsha can help point you in
4 the right direction with that one, Brian.

5 MR. PECK: Well, others may want to know
6 too. Is it in a different volume?

7 MS. MOORE: No, it's in the -- I'll have to
8 look.

9 MR. PECK: Is it in volume four?

10 MS. MOORE: Yes.

11 MR. PECK: Yeah, I don't have that with me.
12 I mean, appendix 4.

13 MS. MARTEN: Yes. So we can get that. We
14 can continue on, but Marsha can look that up and share
15 it. And if other folks are interested, by all means
16 let's make sure Marsha gets that to you.

17 MS. TRIBE: Brian, your point is that
18 whether it's three instead of 17, you just want the
19 rationale visible.

20 MR. PECK: Yeah.

21 MS. TRIBE: The decision rationale.

22 MR. PECK: Yeah.

23 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

24 MS. MARTEN: We'll provide that.

25 MS. TRIBE: Did you have any final

1 comments? Were you finished?

2 MR. PECK: Yeah.

3 MS. TRIBE: Noah, did you have any final
4 comment.

5 MR. BODMAN: Noah Bodman. So I think
6 Region One kind of has this unwritten rule that
7 recommended wilderness is managed as wilderness and
8 that's sort of reflected in the comments we've heard here
9 today because everybody's talking about adding to the
10 wilderness. We're not adding to the wilderness.
11 Congress isn't involved in this forest plan. All we're
12 doing is looking at some areas that are recommended
13 wilderness. And the planning rules make it pretty clear
14 that recommended wilderness is not managed as designated
15 wilderness. There's a difference there.

16 And so the rules grant Chip, the supervisor,
17 discretion. And ultimately what we're asking for in our
18 objection here is for Chip to exercise that discretion,
19 rather than just following the sort of Region One
20 unwritten rule that recommended wilderness is managed as
21 designated wilderness. And so we're not asking Chip to
22 come to any particular conclusion. I mean, we
23 acknowledge that he has discretion. And our objection,
24 obviously, is specifically with respect to bikes. But I
25 think this covers other things beyond bikes. And so

1 we're not asking specifically that bikes be allowed in
2 any particular recommended wilderness areas or that they
3 not be allowed in any recommended wilderness areas. But
4 if they're not going to allowed, I think there needs to
5 be a clear rationale and analysis of why they're not
6 allowed. And that's what I think the plan lacks right
7 now.

8 It categorically excludes them. It says that
9 mechanized transport isn't allowed in recommended
10 wilderness. It doesn't say why. And the rule envisions
11 a case-by-case analysis of each recommended wilderness
12 area. That's how the rule is written. It says There's
13 discretion in determining use in a recommended wilderness
14 area. And that's what I don't see in the plan, is
15 there's none of that case-by-case analysis. And it may
16 well be that that analysis is more appropriate to be done
17 sometime down the line. But as it exists, the plan sort
18 of forecloses that option because it says Mechanized
19 transport is not appropriate in recommended wilderness.
20 And so I think that that is contrary to what the rules
21 dictate on this subject.

22 MS. MARTEN: Thank you.

23 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

24 Dave, do you have any last thoughts?

25 MR. HADDON: Dave Haddon. I would dispute

1 it's been a while since I read the Region One recommended
2 wilderness, but I don't think they say recommended
3 wilderness equals mandatory wilderness management.

4 MS. MARTEN: Well, just to clarify for
5 folks, we go by the Chapter 70 and the process in that.
6 Those are the directives used through the revision. I
7 understand what Noah's referring to and the perception
8 that's out there. And I'm not going to say that it's
9 right or wrong. But I do understand what you're
10 referring to. But there isn't a separate set that says
11 Okay, we're going to do Chapter 70, then in Region One
12 we're going to do it this way. It doesn't matter. It
13 doesn't work like that.

14 MR. HADDON: Just addressing the perception
15 that he's saying.

16 And I just wanted to go back and maybe
17 re-articulate what I said in my last comment a little
18 differently because I can't quite get my mind around the
19 concern that you expressed for local control versus
20 whatever. Maybe you're just trying to address the
21 concerns in the room.

22 But my comment was meant to say that there has
23 been a lot of local control expressed around recommended
24 wildernesses in this area. It can be a very contentious
25 subject. And I think that local decision makers are

1 constrained by that concern. And so what's happened is
2 we've had a dwindling down of the remnants to the
3 remnants. We have a very small subset of what's
4 potentially available for recommended wilderness. So
5 it's been taken down to remnants of remnants. And so
6 those are hard decisions; I can appreciate that. So I'm
7 just trying to advocate that I think Mike spoke to the
8 options that are available to the Forest. I would concur
9 in that. But I'm still asking that the Forest Service
10 use what discretion it has now to put an end to the
11 public debate and the social discord over how these lands
12 are going to be managed to the extent they can or in a
13 timely fashion, within a certain period of time, so that
14 these kinds of discussion don't continue to -- I think
15 they're needless and they're not meant to be needless.

16 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Dave.

17 Frank, any comment?

18 MR. KREILICK: Yeah, I've got a couple
19 closing comments. I wish I could be more technically
20 helpful to the Forest Service but I'm going to get a
21 little philosophical. I think it was Aldo Leopold, I
22 don't know, what he stated at one time What good is a map
23 without a few blank spots? So I'd like everybody to
24 think about you think we really have too much wilderness?
25 I'd say the Flathead National Forest, the Helena-Lewis

1 and Clark and some of the surrounding forest in the
2 northern Rockies, we're lucky that we have this. Because
3 all you've got to do is go about 30,000 feet in a jet
4 plane and fly over the globe. And yeah, we have some NAS
5 tracts in the wilderness in the far north and whatever.
6 As the population grows, I think we are obligated to
7 think about how we're going to manage the
8 remaining -- our impacts on the remaining wildlands for
9 future generations. Not just for humans but for the
10 wildlife we'd like to see and like to have our future
11 generation children grow up and experience.

12 So I just wanted to let everybody think about
13 do we really have too much wilderness? We're lucky we
14 have this much wilderness in the Flathead. But if you
15 look at it as far as the amount of wilderness around,
16 what does the continental United States have for
17 wilderness? Three percent, maybe, three-and-a-half
18 percent? I don't know what the exact figure is. Do you
19 think that's too much wilderness? You know what? I
20 don't want to live in a world that -- the way you
21 perceive it then. Anyway, that's my closing remarks.

22 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Frank.

23 Sarah.

24 MS. LUNDSTRUM: Sarah Lundstrum. So this
25 is on behalf of Whitefish Range Partnership and speaking

1 specifically about the North Fork. As I had mentioned,
2 the spirit of our agreement, we thought we were talking
3 about no mountain biking and recommended wilderness.
4 That didn't happen the way we thought it would because we
5 didn't write it down. We made a mistake there. But we
6 do support the site-specific valuation for that North
7 Fork Wilderness, in terms of mountain biking being
8 recommended for wilderness, and we would like to see it
9 happen sooner rather than later, obviously.

10 On behalf of National Parks Conservation
11 Association, however, supporting the Whitefish Range
12 Partnership Agreement, we do support that. We also
13 believe that recommended wilderness should be closed to
14 motorized and mechanized use simply because today's
15 handful of people becomes next year's dozen. And ten
16 years down the road that dozen becomes a hundred. And
17 twenty years down the road that hundred becomes a
18 thousand. And you not only, then, have lost that
19 solitude of that recommended wilderness but you've also
20 built a constituency to fight against its designation.

21 And I think we need to have the foresight now
22 to protect those places and to take those uses out so
23 that we don't then create blockages to actually designate
24 wilderness in the future.

25 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

1 So Amy, I started with you, went to Mike, so
2 you're set. You guys are --

3 MR. ANDERSON: Actually --

4 MS. TRIBE: Mike, let me give Amy a chance,
5 if you're going to do it. So Amy, you don't have to.

6 MS. ROBINSON: I don't have much to say, I
7 promise, but I will say something.

8 MS. TRIBE: Okay.

9 Mike, you can have a last word in a minute.
10 Go ahead.

11 MS. ROBINSON: Well, Sarah said very well
12 what I was sort of thinking which is these social
13 challenges around uses in being allowed in recommended
14 wilderness and the political difficulty in the future
15 then that that creates for real designated wilderness.
16 So thank you for saying that for me.

17 Also on a last note, I was just sent this
18 lovely old article. It was like from -- since everybody
19 else is quoting Aldo Leopold, I will as well. And it is
20 this. A piece he wrote for the American Forestry
21 Association in like 1925. And I wanted to just read this
22 little paragraph down here which says "From this road a
23 few hours hike into the Kootenai National Forest will
24 take the motorist to glaciers, treeless peaks, big game
25 animals, and unexplored mountain valleys. The highway

1 runs for 50 miles along the Whitefish Range. An ideal
2 wilderness area." And this was in 1925. We still can
3 appreciate that today and leave this legacy for future
4 generations.

5 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

6 MR. ANDERSON: I started out thanking the
7 Forest Service for a good job on the whole planning
8 process in the Flathead. I just wanted to thank the
9 stakeholders for a really great engagement. This
10 objections discussion today, I thought, was really
11 informative for all of us, including the Forest Service,
12 and thank you.

13 MS. TRIBE: Thank you, Mike. Thank you for
14 coming.

15 So are there any observations you would make
16 that you want us to hear about the process? I'm so
17 sorry. Please, Kvande.

18 MR. ANDERSON: Kvande Anderson, fourth
19 generation Swan Valley resident. Population is going to
20 grow as with it the demand for timber. In the Swan
21 Valley, the Forest Service has the largest amount of
22 timber-based property, which is a key factor to sustain
23 our Valley's economic stability, culture, heritage, and
24 infrastructure. With litigation of timber sales, fires
25 and natural mortality, it doesn't make sense to me to

1 take away even more of our timber base and turn it into
2 wilderness.

3 MS. TRIBE: Thank you. So did you not come
4 to the -- you just chose not to come to the table?
5 Because you were at the table this morning, but you chose
6 not to.

7 MR. ANDERSON: Right.

8 MS. TRIBE: So I'm going to make a decision
9 here as the facilitator. And unless one of you is going
10 to fall on your sword in the back as observers, I'm not
11 going to ask for additional comments unless you -- don't
12 be scared. If you look at Kvande, he just stood up and
13 did it.

14 So anybody else? Then would you give Chip and
15 Leanne any observations about the process? About any
16 observations about what happened here among all of you?
17 And I think Mike sort of started that.

18 Timory, thanks for doing that.

19 Any comments?

20 MS. LAMAR: Again, it was good to hear all
21 the stakeholders, as Mike said.

22 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

23 Dave.

24 MR. HADDON: There were a limited number
25 set of things that were brought forward today for

1 discussion, so those obviously are top of the line things
2 that the Forest Service is considering. So it leads me a
3 little down in the mouth that the other issues will just
4 be dealt with summarily.

5 MS. MARTEN: Thanks.

6 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

7 Please, Mark.

8 MR. SMOLEN: I want to thank the lady
9 that's the GIS expert. She was able to point out some
10 maps that were in the Environmental Impact Statement but
11 not in the appendix I see to the actual plan that show
12 actual areas that snowmobiling will be granted to. So I
13 will, you know, amend my statements on things like that.

14 I'm not capable of saying whether we would
15 remove our objection or not at this time simply because
16 I'm not going to do that without our full board. But we
17 will also be here for the winter travel planning portion.
18 Dave will actually be here for that. That being said,
19 those maps need to be made a part of the plan. We feel
20 very frequently that we are kind of the ones left out on
21 these plans. We're a small group, but I'm going to be
22 pretty vocal about that and say that these plans and
23 these maps, specifically before and after, need to be
24 made -- put into that plan specifically as a standalone
25 map. Over the snow vehicle use, winter travel use is

1 specific and needs to be called out specifically.

2 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

3 And thank you, Kathy.

4 MS. AKE: You're welcome.

5 MS. TRIBE: Well, thanks for spending your
6 afternoon here. It was a long one. A lot of people, a
7 lot of comments. And I know, just knowing some of you in
8 the room, none of you are as old as I am, but most of you
9 have been at it for a very long time. So thank you.

10 Please, Leanne.

11 MS. MARTEN: So wow. I'll speak on behalf
12 of Chip and myself. And the reason I say Wow is because
13 what a phenomenal afternoon and dialogue. We started
14 this out and I mentioned, and Dave, I appreciate you
15 bringing up, we don't have time, unfortunately, to go
16 over everything that you guys brought forward in written
17 form. Because they weren't discussed today doesn't mean
18 I'm not taking just as hard and diligent look at those
19 issues as well. I totally understand feeling a little
20 bit where that's at and let down. So thank you for
21 voicing that as well.

22 This is really a tough issue. Recommended
23 wilderness is values. It's very tough. It's been very
24 tough. My reason for bringing out the local control and
25 that part of it wasn't a concern as much as I was trying

1 to just understand where folks were coming from with
2 that. And as we got the dialogue going, it was obvious
3 there was different views of that. And it reminded me a
4 lot -- I'm going to date myself -- but my Master's thesis
5 years ago was on public participation and forest
6 planning. Obviously not this round. So that dates me on
7 my age here. And a lot of these same things were part of
8 that. It's just tough. It's really tough. And that's
9 some of the challenges that we are honored to have the
10 privilege in the role that I am and the job I'm in and
11 Chip and the folks in the Forest Service. And these type
12 of afternoons help tremendously.

13 I'm not sure where it's all going to come out.
14 And I can guarantee you, though, unfortunately I'm not
15 going to be able to please everyone sitting here and have
16 everything be a hundred percent. What I can guarantee
17 you is I'm going to give you my best, just like Chip and
18 his folks have, and I am taking this all seriously and
19 will continue to process this. So when you do get my
20 final decision here in the near future, you may not agree
21 with it. And Edd left. But it's not because I'm not
22 trying to be nice, as he put it earlier. But I will walk
23 through my rationale for you. So if nothing else, you'll
24 at least be able to understand the thought process I went
25 through. And hopefully I will be able to articulate with

1 that where what you brought forward today helped with
2 that.

3 For those of you that had questions, we were
4 noting them. We'll bring forward that. And by all means
5 please continue with the dialogue. And as we move
6 forward with the plan and the collaboration,
7 collaboration isn't perfect. I get that. But I can tell
8 you, at least my own personal experience compared to the
9 first part of my career, man, I'd much rather have days
10 like today where we're all sitting here talking and
11 sharing, not necessarily agreeing, than where it used to
12 be we wouldn't even enter the same room on that part of
13 it. I think we're that much further. And we've got a
14 lot of room to go and grow together. Because we're in it
15 together. We couldn't do it with all of you sitting here
16 and the many other people who have been involved.

17 So thank you so much for your time today, more
18 importantly for throughout the process. And I know many
19 of you we'll see over the next couple days on a couple
20 other agenda topics. So just many thanks on behalf of
21 myself personally but as well as Chip and the Forest
22 Service on that part of it. And Dave has the microphone.

23 MR. HADDON: I just want to say about local
24 control, the last email exchange I had with Chip was We
25 should have a beer. So how much more local control can

1 you have?

2 MS. MARTEN: See, that's the Montanan way.

3 Thank you, folks. And for those tomorrow, we
4 start at -- I'm sorry, I just need -- do we start at
5 9:00? Okay; 8:30 registration, nine o'clock we'll start
6 kicking it off. We have several full things, species of
7 conservation concern, wildlife and many other topics
8 tomorrow. If you need an agenda, we have it. Many
9 thanks, folks, and have a nice evening.

10 MS. TRIBE: Thank you.

11 (Proceedings concluded at 4:23 p.m.)

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