

Objection Issue Briefing Paper: Recommended Wilderness Areas and Boundary Adjustments

Date: Sept. 30, 2020.
Contact: Leanne Marten
Phone: 406-329-3511
Email: leanne.marten@usda.gov

DRAFT: For purposes of facilitating discussion for objection resolution process only.

Summary of objection issues:

1. Objectors advocated for either more or less area to be recommended for wilderness designation. Specific requests included removing the Nevada Mountain Recommended Wilderness Area in the Upper Blackfoot Geographic Area or adding the following:
 - Middle Fork Judith (Little Belts Geographic Area)
 - Arrastra Creek (Upper Blackfoot Geographic Area)
 - Deep Creek-Tenderfoot Wilderness Study Area (Little Belts Geographic Area)
 - Camas Creek (Big Belts Geographic Area)
 - Loco Mtn (Crazies Geographic Area)
 - Elkhorns Wilderness Study area (Elkhorns Geographic Area)
 - Include all inventoried roadless Areas (all geographic areas)
2. Other objectors requested boundary adjustments for the Snowies, Nevada Creek, and/or the Electric Peak Recommended Wilderness Areas.

Background information:

- The alternatives in the final environmental impact statement ranged from not recommending any areas to recommending up to 16 areas.
- Several remote areas that were not recommended for wilderness, including the Middle Fork Judith, Deep Creek-Tenderfoot, and Elkhorns core areas were allocated to a primitive recreation opportunity spectrum class to provide a primitive recreation setting without the additional constraints of recommended wilderness management direction.
- The selected alternative includes boundary modifications to several recommended wilderness areas made between the draft and final environmental impact statement in response to comments. These modifications were made to ensure popular mountain biking trails and snowmobile areas would be consistent with mechanized and motorized suitability plan components. Minor boundary modifications were made for the Nevada and Electric Peak recommended wilderness areas. The Snowies Wilderness Study Area was split into the Snowies Recommended Wilderness Area and the Grand View Recreation Area.



Examples of proposed resolution(s) submitted by objectors:

- Recommend all additional areas; don't recommend any areas.
- Recommend all of the Big Snowies Wilderness Study Area.
- Remove Nevada Mountain as a recommended wilderness area to accommodate existing and future mining claims/activity.
- Nevada Mountain Recommended Wilderness Area—modify to include requested areas back in (including section that was taken out to leave the Helmville-Gould Trail open).
- Electric Peak—modify boundary to leave Continental Divide National Scenic Trail open to bicycles.
- Specific trail-based modifications to the Snowies Recommended Wilderness Area such as:
 - Including the Neil Creek Trail (#654), Blake Creek Trail (#655), Timber Creek trail (#676), Crystal Cascades Trail (#445 and #445a), and the Crystal Lake to the Ice Caves (#493) in recommended wilderness. (*GIS note: Timber Creek is trail #670. Trail #676 is Little Flow Creek in the Crazy Mountains. Timber Creek #670 is already completely within RWA.*)
 - Including the trail from Crystal Lake to West Peak and west in the Grandview Recreation Area (#403, #490). (*GIS note: it appears by the map that they already are included in the GVRA.*)

Objectors/Interested Persons:

Name	Organization	Objector/Interested Person?
Mike Anderson	The Wilderness Society	Interested Person
Ted Anderson		Objector
Zach Angstead	Montana Wilderness Association	Objector
Lisa Bay		Objector
Greg Beardslee	Montana Mountain Bike Alliance	Objector
Jodi Bishop		Objector
Dean Blomquist	Golden Valley County	Interested Person
James Bradley		Objector/Interested Party
Stacey Bradley		Objector
Sara Buley		Objector
Blake Busse	The Pew Charitable Trusts	Interested Person
Maryalice Chester		Objector
Eric Clewis	Montana Wildlife Federation	Objector
Dave Colavito		Objector
Sarah Corse		Objector
Michele Dieterich		Objector
Hilary Eisen	Winter Wildlands Alliance	Interested Person



Name	Organization	Objector/Interested Person?
Kendall Flint	Two Medicine Family	Interested Person
Mary Frieze		Objector
Karyn Good	Upper Blackfoot Working Group	Objector
Mark Good		Objector
Randy Gray		Objector
Eric Grove	Montana High Divide Trail Collaborative	Objector
Bill Hallinan		Interested Person
Hank Hudson		Objector
Charley Karinen		Objector
Rick Kerr		Interested Person
Jeff Lonn		Objector
Jennifer Loomis		Objector
JS Mercenier		Objector
Peter Metcalf	Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance	Objector/ Interested Person
David Murnion		Objector
Zach Muse		Interested Person
Harvey Nyberg		Objector
Connie O'Conner		Objector
Denny Palmer		Interested Person
Tom Partin		Interested Person
Harold Phillips		Objector
Jordan Reeves	The Wilderness Society	Objector
Bonnie Rice	The Sierra Club	Objector
Gail and John Richardson		Objector
Tom Ross		Objector
Eric Sivers	Montana Bicycle Guild	Interested Person
Anthony Smith		Objector
Patti Steinmuller		Objector
Dan Struble		Objector
John Tubbs	Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation	Interested Person
Gordon Whirry		Objector



Name	Organization	Objector/Interested Person?
Zach Winestine		Objector

