

Lincoln Valley Proposal

DRAFT

Foot and stock only

Scapegoat Wilderness Addition  
Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Management Area

Scapegoat Wilderness Addition

Scapegoat Wilderness Addition

Copper Bowls Winter Recreation Area

Stonewall Conservation Management Area

Bartlett Creek Recreation Area

Sandbar Creek Recreation Area

Continental Divide Conservation Management Area

Ogden Mountain Restoration Area

Nevada Mountain Wilderness

Lincoln Valley Recreation, Economic Development, and Conservation Proposal Summary

March 2019

For the past four years, residents of Lincoln, along with other stakeholders, have worked together to identify ways to improve management of public lands in the Lincoln Valley for the benefit of local residents and all public land users. This proposal is the result of that collaborative work. It addresses issues that Lincoln community members and user groups would like resolved, provides a positive vision for the future of the Lincoln Valley, and describes a path forward. We hope this proposal can be implemented in a manner that unites the community and its many partners while building a better future for the valley.

**FOREST RESTORATION**  
We can provide jobs in the woods, protect our communities from wildfire, improve forest conditions, and improve fisheries by working together to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration, aquatic recovery, and fuel reduction projects on public and private land. This proposal would establish the Lincoln Gulch and Ogden Mountain Restoration Areas, spanning 69,000 acres, to reduce fuel loads while attempting to reestablish historical fire regimes. Forest restoration will be emphasized within these areas, consistent with protections for grizzly bear, lynx, and wolverine, to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects and restore aquatic and wildlife habitat.

**RECREATION**  
The Lincoln Valley has the potential to be a highly sought-after recreational destination with outstanding opportunities for hiking, motorized vehicles, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, sking, mountain biking, and camping. This proposal would enhance recreational opportunities by:

- Establishing the Bartlett Creek and Sandbar Creek Recreation Area, spanning 10,600 acres, where motorized recreation is permitted, and opportunities are enhanced.
- Developing approximately 70 miles of long-distance routes, including roughly 20 miles of new connector trails that link ridge areas and create desirable distance rides, allowing riders to circumnavigate the Lincoln Valley.
- Designating the Copper Bowls Winter Recreation Area, spanning 5,200 acres, for snowmobiling.
- Ensuring that recreational use is well-managed and enforced, and respects private property.

**CONSERVATION**  
The Lincoln Valley contains sections of the Continental Divide Trail and some of the best elk habitat in Montana. The proposal would establish the Continental Divide, Rocky Mountain Front, and Stonewall Conservation Management Areas, totaling 65,000 acres, to maintain existing uses and conditions and prevent new development. The proposal would also add 16,000 acres to the Scapegoat Wilderness and establish the 40,000-acre Nevada Mountain Wilderness. The proposed wilderness areas were carefully crafted to avoid impacting existing uses.

**Additional Agreements** as part of this proposal cover noxious weed eradication, private forest restoration, land exchanges, and education.

THIS AGREEMENT IS SUPPORTED BY THE UPPER BLACKFOOT WORKING GROUP, WHICH INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

- Paul Ross- Retired Outfitter and Educator
- Brent Anderson- Conifer Logging Inc
- Pat Hagen- Ponderosa Snow Warriors
- Karryn Good- Cleburn Ranch
- Bill Cyr- Lincoln Restoration Committee
- Rod Bullis- Professional Forester
- Frank Malek- Blackfoot Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Association
- Zach Muse- Lincoln Fire Chief, Upper Blackfoot Community Council
- Russ Ehnes- Great Falls Trail Bike Riders Association
- John Catchell- Montana Wilderness Association
- Ron Zarr- Ponderosa Snow Warriors
- Eric Grove- Helena-based Mountain Bike Advocate
- Jordan Reeves- The Wilderness Society
- Marcus Strange- Montana Wildlife Federation

**Legend**

- Proposed Motorized Routes
- Proposed Non-Motorized Routes
- Helena NF Trails
- Helena NF Open Roads

**Proposed Designations 1**

**type**

- Special Management Area
- Forest Restoration
- Conservation Management Area
- Recreation Area
- Proposed Wilderness
- Winter Recreation Area
- USA Topo Maps
- Existing Wilderness

**Existing Ownership**

**OWNER**

- City Government
- County Government
- Montana Dept of Natural Resources Water Projects
- Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
- Montana State Trust Lands
- National Park Service
- State of Montana
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- US Dept of Agriculture
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- US Government