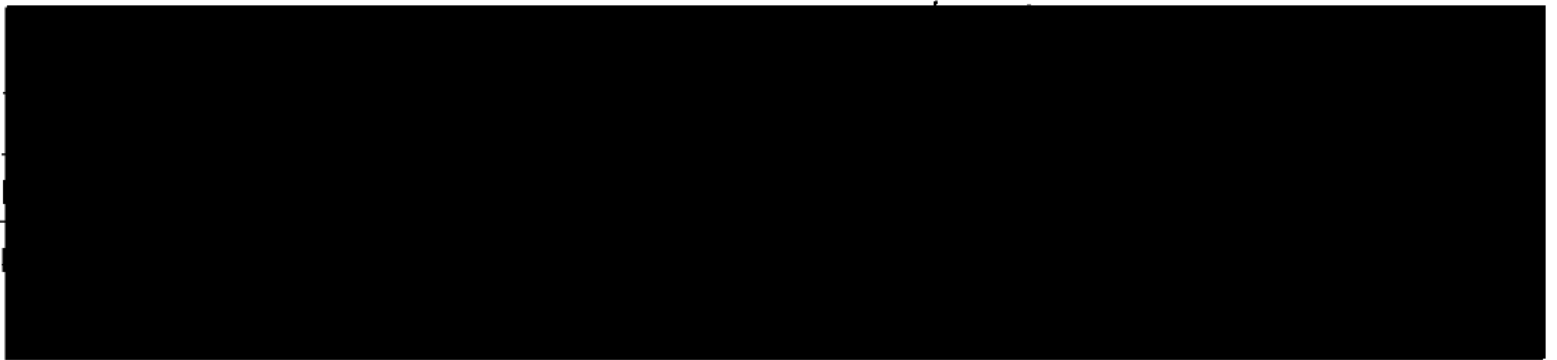




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PR2086

Helena Lewis and Clark National Forest Plan Objection

Attention: Objection Review Officer

USDA Forest Service Objection Reviewing Officer



I object to the Helena Lewis and Clark National Forest Plan for the Following Reasons:

36CFR 219.53 allows an individual to object to a plan based on an issue, or issues, "that arose after the opportunities for formal comment."

#1. I object to any more of our accessible forest land to being shut off to motorized or to be labeled "Wilderness". The State of Montana already has enough "Wilderness". Less than 3% recreate in designated wilderness or lands closed to motorized and mechanized use. {the proposed HLCNF Plan will remove even more access opportunities. Only the young and physically fit can walk or hike long distance into and on our federally managed public lands. Forest Service surveys show 97% of the people recreate on lands open to Multiple use. I have seen people crowd into Mountain camp sites causing { going to the mountains to relax and enjoy } a very unpleasant camping outing.

#2. I object to closing any more lands to Senior Citizens, the impaired or anyone young or elderly needing assistance of Motorized to having the right to have access to the Mountains. A Healthy human environment includes adequate motorized access and motorized recreational opportunities as required to meet the needs of the public. Too much multiple-use land has been set aside for elite/exclusive use.

OBJECTION 3:

The new plan has false statements such as on page 1 of the FEIS summary. Specifically it states "the Forest Plan does not authorize site-specific projects or activities" when in fact the plan on page 27 of the FEIS Record of Decision it States:

FEIS Record of Decision it states: "I will initiate site-specific NEPA decision per the Plan's suitability direction to close these uses within the recommended wilderness areas within 3 years from the date of this decision." In fact, the plan has made site specific decisions by identifying areas of "Recommended Wilderness" and then removing the historic and established motorized and mechanized use in these areas. This is clearly a site-specific decision which has been included in the new Forest plan.

The public was told during the development of the FEIS that this Forest Plan would not make site-specific decisions. The public was told the Forest Plan was much like a zoning document and would not affect current use. The public was not aware the new Forest Plan would in fact make site-specific decisions.

Another false statement in the FEIS is found in Chapter 3.17, Recreation Opportunities.

3.17 Recreation Opportunities

3.17.1 Introduction

Issues There were no issues raised for recreation opportunities during the scoping period for the proposed action and/or comment period on the DEIS.

Many comments were submitted during the scoping and DEIS comment periods on the need to increase multiple use recreation access and opportunities. The Forest Service seems to have ignored these comments by including the above statement. The Forest Service must address the need for increased access and acknowledge the comments received requesting increased multiple use access.

I look forward to discussing these important issues with the Objection Review Officer that arose after the public's opportunity to comment on the plan.

Thank You,

