

December 20, 2023

Reviewing Officer,  
Northern Regional Office  
26 Fort Missoula Road,  
Missoula, MT 59804

*Submitted electronically via:* <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?project=63176>

Re: WildEarth Guardians Objection to the Dry Riverside Project Draft Decision

WildEarth Guardians respectfully submits this objection to the U.S. Forest Service concerning the Dry Riverside Project located within the Hungry Horse-Glacier View District on the Flathead National Forest. We object to the updated November 2023 Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN and FONSI). The responsible official for this project is Acting Forest Supervisor Tamara Mackenzie. As required by 36 C.F.R. § 218.8(d):

Adam Rissien  
ReWilding Manager  
WildEarth Guardians  
PO Box 7516  
Missoula, MT 59807  
406-370-3147  
[arissien@wildearthguardians.org](mailto:arissien@wildearthguardians.org)

Guardians is a nonprofit conservation organization with offices in Montana and seven other states. We have over 182,900 members and supporters across the United States and we work to protect and restore wildlife, wild places, wild rivers, and the health of the American West. Guardians and its members have specific interests in the health and resilience of public lands and waterways. Specifically, we have a long history of advocating for right-sizing the Forest Service road system, and ensuring the agency's transportation system is ecologically sustainable, which is why we vigorously oppose adding roads back onto the system. Not only will this increase the maintenance burden, but it will also hinder the recovery of at-risk species, particularly grizzly bears. WildEarth Guardians submitted timely comments on the Dry Riverside draft environmental assessment on October 2nd, 2023 supporting and incorporating comments submitted by the Swan View Coalition and Friends of the Wild Swan. Our comments raised concerns about impacts to soil biota, the need for an accurate carbon accounting and the need to preserve mature and old growth forests.

WildEarth Guardians continues to support the positions and comments put forward by the Swan View Coalition, and therefore we incorporate the objection filed by Keith Hammer as an attachment to this letter.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Adam Rissien", set against a light beige rectangular background.

Adam Rissien  
WildEarth Guardians.