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First name: Harold

Last name: Phillips

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My objections and comments are in the attached file.

Objection: I object to the Forest Plan not recommending the Middle Fork Judith area and Colorado Mountain for Wilderness designation. I also object to including the opportunity for mechanized travel in the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum for the Middle Fork Judith, Colorado Mountain and all areas designated for Primitive Recreation.

Concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the proposed plan should be improved:

* The reasons for this objection are:

I believe that the Middle Fork Judith and Colorado Mountain provides the opportunity for solitude in a wild setting where the effects of human visitation are minimal. I believe that the Middle Fork Wilderness Study Area and Colorado/Black Mountain are suitable for Wilderness designation, and should be recommended for Wilderness in the Forest Plan. By recommending the area for Wilderness designation, the Forest would commit the area to being managed in its present wild state into the future.

The Little Belt Mountains and the Divide Mountains near Helena have so few opportunities for quiet, non-motorized and non-mechanized trails that the Middle Fork Judith and Colorado Mountain/Black Mountain areas stand out as very special in that regard.

However, If the Middle Fork Judith and Colorado Mountain is to be managed for primitive recreation, then by removing the [ldquo]mechanized[rldquo] travel opportunity in the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum the present rare opportunity for quiet, non-mechanical trails in the area would remain.

The Colorado Mountain/Black Mountain area near Helena provide the opportunity for quiet, non-motorized, non-mechanized recreation in an area surrounded by high use motorized and mechanized (mountain bike) trails. Few opportunities are available for elk escape cover and quiet, non-mechanized hiking in the greater Helena area. Are all trails in the Helena/Divide Mountain area to be high use mountain bike trails?

* Proposed Solution:

Adopt the boundaries of Alternative D for recommending wilderness designation for the Middle Fork Judith and Colorado Mountain/Black Mountain areas. At the very least, Colorado Mountain/Black Mountain area should be changed from Semi-primitive Recreation Management to Primitive Recreation Management.

Remove FW-ROS-SUIT-02 from the Primitive suitability section for the Middle Fork Judith, Colorado Mountain, and also for all other areas in the Forest Plan designated for Primitive recreation. Mechanized travel is not [primitive] travel, only foot and horseback travel are.

Statement demonstrating the link between objection and prior formal comments:

This is my prior formal comment

8 Oct 2018

Helena/Lewis and Clark National Forest Plan Revision

Recommendation/Comments of Harold Wayne Phillips

I recommend adopting Alternative D

Recommending Wilderness for all of the areas recommended in Alternative D is critically important for insuring that future generations have the opportunity to find solitude, quiet trails without motorized or other wheeled traffic, primitive recreation, and for wildlife to find areas undisturbed by motorized and wheeled vehicles. The area now devoted to wilderness management is too small, and not well distributed to serve the citizens living in the area, or visiting from in-state or out of state, that are coming to the National Forest seeking a wilderness experience. While the Bob Marshall wilderness complex is a fine, large wilderness area, it is remote from many population centers in the state. There needs to be the opportunity for finding wilderness well distributed and available throughout the Helena/Lewis and Clark National Forest. The wilderness recommendations in Alternative D provide that opportunity.

In future years the need for more wilderness will most likely continue to rise, so we must take this opportunity to set aside these suitable areas in Alternative D, or lose this opportunity forever.

Below are my comments on specific units recommended for wilderness in Alternative D.

Colorado Mountain

Colorado Mountain provides an outstanding opportunity for quiet recreation, solitude, and wildlife escape cover away from motorized and wheeled traffic close to the city and suburbs of Helena. In recent years there has been an explosion of both motorized and mountain bike traffic on trails in the Helena area. This needs to be balanced with the opportunity for finding solitude in a wilderness setting, and for wildlife to find habitat undisturbed by

motorized and wheeled vehicle traffic. While Colorado Mountain is small (14,189 acres) it is critically important to manage for its wilderness qualities in the surrounding motorized/wheeled traffic setting.

The recent clearing of the historic telephone line trail from the Moose Creek historic Ranger Station to historic Colorado Mountain Lookout site is a threat to the wilderness qualities of this area if motorized vehicles or mountain bikes are allowed on this trail. This needs immediate attention with a signed closure to vehicles and monitoring of