

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/20/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: EA Andy

Last name: Johnson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: See attached.

Statement of issues and/or parts of the plan revision to which the objection applies:

Nevada Mountain Area (UB10) has significant past and present mining activity. We should not be tying up our economic mineral resources in esoteric wilderness area foolishness. This will only cause more grief for the miners working there. WRONG HEADED !!!

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

\* The reasons for this objection are:

Mineralized areas are few and far between. Our mineral resource base is finite, and to recommend this area for wilderness designation speaks volumes about how far USFS has drifted from reality and why a significant adjustment of FS senior managers is warranted.

\* Proposed Solution:

Remove Nevada Mountain Area (UB10) from list of recommended wilderness areas.

Statement demonstrating the link between objection and prior formal comments:

I reported this concern in my comments to 2018 Draft Management Plan, and, although not specifically identified as UB10, it speaks for all proposed wilderness areas. My statement is reproduced as R in FEIS Appendix G Supplemental.

Statement of issues and/or parts of the plan revision to which the objection applies:

Riparian Management Zones, Pg. 20, Guideline 07, [ldquo]New sand and gravel borrow pit development or gravel mining should not occur within RMZs to minimize ground disturbance and sediment inputs.[rdquo]

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

\* The reasons for this objection are:

Gravel mining (a leasable option by USFS) could be interpreted by a District Ranger or Forest Supervisor to include gold or platinum placer mining in stream beds. However, placer mining of stream beds remains lawful in accordance with the 1872 Mining Law, thus not an option for USFS consideration. It is hard to imagine someone going on Forest Reserves to [ldquo]mine[rdquo] gravel when much better deposits are available in downstream gravel benches adjacent to the mountains.

\* Proposed Solution:

Remove [ldquo]or gravel mining[rdquo] from guideline 07. Include statement that gold and other metal placer deposits will be allowed in riparian areas but, as per previous Gallatin NF Desired Condition [ldquo]When authorizing or reauthorizing mineral development and operations, --- If the RMZ cannot be avoided, then ensure operations take all practicable measures to maintain, protect, and rehabilitate water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife and other riparian associated resources ---.[rdquo]

EA Andy Johnson

Page 2.

Statement demonstrating the link between objection and prior formal comments:

I reported this concern in my comments to 2018 Draft Management Plan, and it is reproduced as R in FEIS Appendix G Supplemental, under Geology, Minerals and Energy.