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Comments: As a drone / UAS enthusiast, I am concerned with the application to recommended wilderness of this provision:

MA-STND-WLDN-10: The use of a drone in a designated wilderness shall be prohibited.

Drones are already prohibited in designated wildernesses, so applying this provision to designated wilderness is simply continuing existing policy. What is concerning is the implications of this provision:

MA-STND-WLDN-14: Plan direction for existing designated wilderness (MA 1.1) is applied to recommended wilderness.

If I am not mistaken, this provision would also apply the provision prohibiting drones to recommended wilderness in addition to Congressionally designated wilderness. This is extremely concerning, as it would apply a rule that currently only applies to designated wilderness to potentially vast areas of National Forest where drones are currently not prohibited.

Not only is this a significant curtailment of existing allowed uses, it would be difficult or impossible to comply with or enforce. Designated wildernesses are clearly mapped and shown in all existing topo maps and GPS mapping apps, so it is easy for someone to know if they are in a designated wildernesses or not and act accordingly.

In comparison, recommended wildernesses are not shown on most maps, and the only way a forest user would ever know if an area they are recreating in happens to be a recommended wilderness area is by reading the Forest Plan document itself--something the vast majority of the recreating public does not even know exists. It would be quite easy for a hiker or backpacker following a trail that leads through multiple types of land classifications under the Forest Plan who has a drone along with him to have no idea he is in a recommended wilderness when flying his drone from the trail.

This restriction is also completely unnecessary as applied to recommended wilderness, as any impacts of drones (mostly noise) are inherently temporary and happen only during the limited time a drone is in flight. Drones do not leave any lasting impact on the land, and therefore cause no lasting impacts on wilderness values that could impair later wilderness designation.

For these reasons, I urge you to amend the draft document to make it clear that the prohibition on drones only applies to designated wilderness and not recommended wilderness.