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First name: Camille
Last name: Consolvo
Organization:
Title:
Comments: USFS Helena/Lewis and Clark Forest Plan Comments June 29, 2020

I am pleased that the draft plan recommends about 32,000 acres for Wilderness on Nevada Mountain because the area is a major corridor for grizzly bears, wolverines, Canada lynx, elk, and many other species.

I support the USFS Helena/Lewis and Clark Forest Plan recommendation protecting Red Creek and Silver King areas adjacent to the Scapegoat Wilderness and the recommendation to keep in place the 1986 recommended wilderness for Electric Peak.

The Badger-Two Medicine: I believe the Badger-Two Medicine should not allow mechanized use to protect the cultural heritage and values of the Blackfeet as they desire. I believe the Badger-Two Medicine should be a cultural heritage site as the Blackfeet have requested to save their heritage and decrease further impact on their sacred land. The Blackfeet should also be brought into decisions about management with the USFS.

Middle Fork Judith Wilderness Study Area: The USFS should protect the wild quality of the Middle Fork Judith WSA and recommend it for wilderness protection.

Big Snowies Wilderness Study Area: I am pleased that the special wildness that the Big Snowies offer and acknowledge the recommendation of 66,000 acres for Wilderness designation. The draft plan, however, limits the boundaries proposed in the draft plan. Adding more acreage by adding 10,000 more acres would keep the wilderness quality intact and create avoidable mountain bike use in the recommended Wilderness, thus preventing potential conflict between mountain bikers and horseback riders.

Arrastra Creek: Arrastra Creek offers critical habitat for grizzly bears and Canada lynx and should be recommended for wilderness.

The Elkhorns: The Elkhorn Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) is habitat for many species (e.g., wolverines, deer, elk).. The EWMU also provides connectivity to other wildlands and this area should be protected from development, oil and gas leasing, and managed for wildlife.