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First name: Harvey

Last name: Nyberg

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest Land Management Plan Revision Objection Template

Objector's name: Harvey Nyberg

Address: 609 W Evelyn Street, Lewistown, MT 59457

Phone # or email: henmt1@comcast.net

Name of lead objector (if more than one): Harvey Nyberg

Please specify whether this objection is to the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest Land Management Plan or the Regional Forester's list of species of conservation concern (SCC) by checking the applicable box:

Land Management Plan XX

Regional Forester's List of SCC

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

Big Snowies WSA

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

The reasons for this objection are: I first went to the Big Snowies in 1974 and have recreated there off and on since then. This spring, my wife and I camped at Crystal Lake for a few nights and hiked into Crystal Cascades and Grandview. I was struck anew by the fact that the Big Snowies represents a very rare habitat type in Central Montana, one that needs to be preserved. The Big Snowies is one of, if not the best, old growth Spruce-Fir, mixed conifer forests in our area. This habitat, I think, reflects the very unique orientation of the mountain range. Because the Big Snowies are oriented East and West, in comparison to the usual north south trend, storms stall here and drop a higher amount of precipitation. As a result, the vegetation is very unusual for our area.

Opening this area to mechanized recreation will compromise the current old growth as impacts from use occur or projects are done to facilitate or encourage those uses. As electronic bicycles, motorcycles and ATV's are developed and integrated into this area, trails will be widened affecting thermal relationships and accelerated erosion will adversely impact watershed function thereby adversely affecting the old growth nature of the area. There are many areas in Central Montana where motorized and non-motorized mechanical recreation are the dominant use on Public Lands, but very few truly old growth forests such as in the Big Snowies. Therefore, I urge you to restore WSA status to all of the current Big Snowies WSA.

Proposed Solution: Restore WSA status to all of the current Big Snowies WSA.

Statement demonstrating the link between objection and prior formal comments:

I am an avid hiker, and 50 year bicyclist. I am also a Wildlife Biologist and lifelong conservationist. I have commented during prior public involvement to maintain the Big Snowies WSA.