

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/18/2020 2:47:52 PM

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Organization:

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Comments: I am writing to object to the Helena-Lewis and Clark Natl. Forest Plan 2020, Forest Supervisor Bill Avery.

Specifically I object to the recommended boundaries of the recommended wilderness area surrounding Crystal Lake and the south flanks of the Big Snowy Mountains. I have explored much of this area for the past 40 years and know it retains wilderness qualities which need to be preserved. With the advent of the Pandemic the Crystal Lake area and south side access points such as Timber Creek, Swimming Woman Creek, and Neil Creek are experiencing a massive influx of visitors, some of which ignore the non-motorized restrictions. I understand the desire of mountain bikers to use the area, but some trails like the steep east portion of the Ice Cave loop, trail 493 are not appropriate for bikes. The west side portion of the loop, trail 403 would be an acceptable bike trail, if it is managed. In short, I think it would be wise to limit bicycle access to the non-RW area closely surrounding the lake, trail 403, and possibly developing the old trail 408? which descends on the ridge just to the west of the Crystal Lake road. This would provide a loop bike and cross-country ski route to or from the lower gate parking lot. On the south side, trails 653 and 652 should be the border of the recommended wilderness, as the trails such as 654,655,823, and other canyon access points are being invaded by dirt bikes and vehicles.