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First name: Ashton

Last name: Loomis

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Attention: Objection Review Officer

USDA Forest Service Northern Region

26 Fort Missoula Road

Missoula, MT 59804

Reviewing Officer,

I object to the Helena/Lewis and Clark National Forest Plan for the following reasons.

Your plan creates wilderness without the approval of Congress. You may recommend an area be wilderness, however you may not create wilderness and that is in fact what you would be doing. Your plan wants to close all roads and trails in the recommended areas, effectively creating wilderness without the approval of Congress. This is unlawful and could warrant lawsuits.

In addition to this, the areas you are recommending as wilderness clearly do not fit the protocol to be made wilderness. The Wilderness Act states that wilderness is an area, "retaining its primeval character" and that, "the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable". These areas contain many roads and mining claims. I'm pretty sure that is obvious evidence of man's handiwork. These RWAs do not fit the clear criteria that is laid out in the Wilderness Act.

Your plan is also inconsistent with the national directive. Secretary Purdue issued a directive in June 2020. His directive clearly states that the Forest Service will increase recreational opportunities to the public instead of decreasing them (as you have been doing for years). This plan does the opposite, limiting recreational opportunities. I think it would be proper for the Forest Service to follow the new directive as assigned to you by Secretary Purdue.

In conclusion I think this plan needs to be revised greatly as it contains many contradictions to the Law and the Forest Service's own protocol. Thank you for reviewing my objection and I look forward to working with the Forest Service to increase recreational opportunities for all citizens.