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Comments: I have been a member of the Beaverhead Deerlodge Working Group since its inception. This group meets most months. The agenda regularly includes invited BHDL Forest staff. This project has not been our agenda because our group was never informed on the progress of this project nor the impending comment period and decision process. Whatever the reason for this oversight the public engagement required to develop a proposal of this magnitude with an expected life of 20 years without further evaluation is not acceptable.

I request that the Forest discuss with the Working Group 'if and how' our group may assist on the development of this project. Reviewing the volume of comments and the demand for more engagement from the Forest before developing a decision, indicates a need for more process. Our Working Group may be a vehicle to assist the process going forward.

I do respect and value the work done by staff to get to this point. I was ill informed on the status of O&G activities on the Forest. Staff were helpful in helping me decipher the process and the detailed project document gave me a better understanding of current conditions and the direction of O&G.

The maps illustrating O&G activities by landscape were informative. Still I need more information on 'how and where' are the needs for more permits. It seems many of the traditional interests of hunting are not growing but new activities such as back country skiing are driving the numbers. I need more data on what the current trends are telling us about where the future needs are.

This project seems to be a simple increase in the number of permits for 20 years. It relies on individual analysis of each issuance to address impacts. We need more. There needs to be a more comprehensive analysis and guidelines to insure that O&G services are sufficient, monitored, sustainable, and complimentary to overall FS objectives and public expectations.