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Comments: I am writing to support the desired winter Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROD) of LaValle/Butler Creek watersheds as a semi-primitive nonmotorized setting.

However, I strongly oppose the new designation in the forest plan of the desired summer Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) of a semi-primitive motorized setting for Butler Creek, and LaValle Creek drainages, Specifically, Point Six/TV Mountain Road (FS 9962), LaValle Spur (FS 19080), and FS 19060 which are all currently gated, closed to motorized use, and should not be allowed for motorized recreation and are not suitable as a "desired summer semi-primitive motorized settings provide motorized recreation opportunities in backcountry settings. Routes are designed for off-highway vehicles and high-clearance vehicles, including motorcycles."

The area is heavily used by hikers, birdwatchers, trail runners, dog walkers, mountain biking and bird watchers and having motorcycles and atvs would adversely affect these types of recreation. This is also critical range for the Grant Creek elk herd which is increasingly endangered by development, not to mention the many other wildlife species from grouse to bears that rely on this habitat. Increased hunting with vehicles would also cause serious congestion and virtually eliminate the opportunities for the kinds of non- motorized recreation mentioned above during the hunting season.

Historically this area was a sight for keggars and illegal offroad dirt bike trails before it was gated. Opening it up would adversely affect summer recreation at Snowbowl and endanger the ski slopes from degradation from off-roading activities. In addition the road becomes a quagmire of mud for the spring and fall months and would require a great deal of additional maintenance by the forest service, as well as increasing the sedimentation in the creeks which would degrade the habitat for one of the few remaining drainages containing genetically pure cutthroat trout populations.

In addition, the critical communication equipment at the top of Point Six would become readily accessible and in danger of vandalism and damage.

We live in the Big Flat area and used to enjoy hiking in the Deep Creek area, but it has become a mecca for off-roaders and has made enjoying the woods nearly impossible. Because of the close proximity to town I worry that the same thing will happen to the Point Six area. With the tremendous increase in population in the Missoula Valley the opportunities for non-motorized recreation are becoming more and more crowded. Please let us have one place where we don't have to compete for a bit of solitude and a chance to enjoy our natural resources without the noise and crowding and trail destruction that motorized recreation would bring and leave the area as a gated, semi-primitive non- motorized area.