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First name: Ann

Last name: Karp

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service officials,

Thank you for soliciting comments about this project. My thoughts mirror those of Wild Montana, a local group of advocates for wilderness, and are informed by lots of hiking through areas impacted by roads, logging, and also through areas that have been more traditionally preserved.

My main point is that I oppose new road construction. Even roads made "inaccessible" still cause long-term sedimentation and aquatic habitat degradation and facilitate legal and illegal access that degrades secure wildlife habitat. Any roads that must be built should be "obliterated" afterward.

It's also important to maintain wildlife corridors, especially near Hwy 2. Please let us know how you are planning to preserve migration and just plain traveling routes for wildlife.

Would you please provide justification for the commercial treatments proposed in inventoried roadless areas (IRAs)? Please describe in detail how all treatments in IRAs will maintain or improve roadless area characteristics.

I am very positive about whitebark pine restoration but hope that work in wilderness areas use hand tools and not helicopters. This is the standard currently required by the Flathead National Forest Plan.

I would like to hear in the EA how the proposed project will, or will not, impact the "outstanding remarkable values" associated with the affected stretch of the Middle Fork of the Flathead: fisheries, geology, water quality, wildlife, recreation, scenery, history, and ethnography. Ask what measures will be included to protect these values.

Thank you for listening and I hope you are able to address all these points in your EA.