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Comments: I offer the following comments on the Final Draft: of the Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest Plan.

All 98,000. acres of the Big Snowies WSA needs to be designated as a permanent Wilderness Area. The sudden plan to chop 31,000 acres off the Big Snowies WSA without the support of the majority of the American public is not Democracy in action, it appears more like totalitarianism.

Just because the Trump Administration and other badly misguided politicians have targeted National Monuments and Wilderness Study Areas to be reduced and eventually eliminated against the wishes of the majority of American people does not mean the Helena-Lewis &. Clark Nat'l forest needs to fall in line with this insidious repressive policy to deprive the American people of our increasingly precious public lands.

The Helena-Lewis tr Clark Nat'l Forest should not be participating in the Trump Administration's course of illegal action to remove WSAs and National Monuments. WSAs and National Monuments are part of our rightful heritage and Helena-Lewis & Clark Nat'1 forest's plan to designate only 67,000 acres of the Big Snowies as Wilderness gives a great victory to hate groups, militia organizations and white, supremacists (disguised under the seemingly benign term Alt.-White) all of whom wish to rid the American landscape of public lands.

Helena - Lewis & Clark Nat'l Forest should not be playing these oppressive political games with our WSAs.

Lewistown, adjacent communities, countless farms and ranches all through Central Montana depend on the pure water generated in the Big, Snowies and flawing out on all sides in creeks, streams, aquifers, water tables. Keeping all 98,000 acres as Wilderness guarantees the high quality of water for all Central Montana people.

There are several misguided/short sighted politicians who would like to ruin the 31,000 acres of National Forest Helena-Lewis & Clark Nat'l Forest wants to chop from the 98,000 acres of the Big Snowies WSA, under the questionable disguise of "jobs" and "mineral development" and "timber harvest;" and "recreation".

I have seen the permanent damage done by so-called "timber harvests" on National Forests, BLM and State lands in Central Montana. In every case, nearly as much timber is wasted in so-called huge "slash piles" as is harvested. Let's prevent that from happening in and around the Big Snowies by designating all 98,000 acres as Wilderness.

I have witnessed numerous large commercial mining projects around Central Montana and the state. Places like the North Moccasins, the Little Rockies, Butte, Colstrip, Roundup (the Bull Mountains). In every case, water has been poisoned for the long term, aquifers have been destroyed, soil has been permanently contaminated, vegetation and forests ruined for generations. Let's prevent that and have all 98,000 acres of the Big Snowies WSA permanently designated as Wilderness.

I have witnessed first hand how current: logging practices ruin aquifers, watersheds, cause massive soil erosion, dry up natural flowing springs, bring in pine beetles en masse, bring in noxious weeds. Let us avoid that by keeping all 98,000 acres of the Big Snowies WSA intact.

I have seen the effect off road vehicles on our National Forests; The damage is extensive. In contrast., long term damage to trails in National Forests by horsemen and women can be extensive, BUT, Back Country Horsemen take responsibility for any damage caused by long term trail use by horses, and they consistently repair trails. I

have yet to see an off road vehicle user take any responsibility for damage caused on public lands by orvs.

There needs to be Wilderness protection for the Deep Creek-Tenderfoot WSA along the Smith River, the Middle Fork of the Judith WSA, and in the Elkhorn Mountains.

In the Big Belt Mountains, Camas Creek. and the Baldy-Edith regions need to be designated as Wilderness Areas.

Deep Creek-Tenderfoot and Middle Fork Judith are prime locations for Wilderness designation, given that over a thousand elk migrate into or through these WSAs and the Smith River, thousands of Montanans apply for permits to float this scenic river.

All 70,000 acres of the Elkhorn WSA needs to be designated as Wilderness.

All of these WSAs provide pure water for numerous communities, allow fish and wildlife to thrive at a time when species are going extinct across the nation and around the world. At a time when songbirds are declining rapidly, mostly due to habitat loss, these WSAs are now providing vital songbird habitat. These WSAs currently offer invaluable places for hikers, hunters, backcountry horsemen and women, cross country skiers, photographers, artists at a time when we need these areas more than ever.

I am requesting that Helena-Lewis & Clark Nat'l Forest not deprive us of any of our priceless Wilderness Study Areas.

Thank you far this opportunity, to offer comments and critique of the Helena-Lewis & Clark Nat'l Forest Final Draft Plan.