

# Appendix K. Potential Recreation Direct Effects

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## Introduction

Access to and through the forest is facilitated year-round, and in several ways. Visitors select their access based on their preferred setting, experience, and mode of transportation. Roads, motorized trails, nonmotorized trails, rivers, and airstrips penetrate the forest for visitors to walk, bike, boat, ride, drive, or fly to their destinations.

As described in the Recommended Wilderness Area section, the 2020 Forest Plan and associated decision would establish the suitability for various types of recreation access in RWAs. Identification of RWAs only establishes suitability of motorized and mechanized means of transportation within them. A site-specific analysis and decision is required to alter the number of roads, motorized trails, motorized groomed trails, and motorized over-snow areas available for motorized and mechanized means of transportation.

This appendix provides a supplemental analysis of the direct effects to recreation access that would result from implementation of the suitability plan components for motorized and mechanized means of transportation within RWAs, changes to winter ROS, and suitability restrictions on certain landscapes. The direct effects described in this section would not occur as a result of the 2020 Forest Plan or ROD; rather, they may occur as a result of subsequent decisions and/or closure orders that are made to meet the suitability requirements in the 2020 Forest Plan.

## Issues

A number of issues regarding recreation access were raised during the scoping period for the proposed action and the comment period for the DEIS. The issues that drove alternatives for site-specific changes to recreation access were:

- The specific roads, trails, and areas that may be closed to motorized recreation uses and mechanical means of transportation within RWA's on the Forest.
- The specific trails that may be closed to mechanized means of transportation within the core area of the Elkhorns.
- The motorized over-snow area that may be closed to motorized uses within the Elkhorns GA.

## Measurement Indicators

Potential direct effects that may occur in the future as a result of decisions designed to meet the suitability requirements of the 2020 Forest Plan are measured by the following indicators:

- Miles of open road
- Miles of motorized trail
- Miles of trail open to mechanized means of transportation
- Miles of groomed over-snow trail
- Miles of ungroomed over-snow trail
- Acres open to motorized over-snow uses
- Specific numbers and names of roads, trails, and areas closed to types of recreation access

## Analysis area

The geographic scope of the analysis is the lands administered by the HLC NF. All lands within the forest boundary form the geographic scope for cumulative effects. The temporal scope is the life of the plan (approximately 15 years).

## Changes between draft and final

A number of changes to recreation access were made for the FEIS; however, all changes are within the scope of the DEIS analysis:

- Analysis for Alternative F was added to the FEIS.
- Potential future direct effects of the suitability plan components were moved from the primary analysis in the FEIS and placed in this appendix.

## Assumptions

Since adoption of the 1986 plans, recreation activities in the planning area have changed. This analysis assumes that changes to recreational use patterns would occur naturally as a result of factors associated with recreation trends, advances in technology, aging population, aging infrastructure, and climate changes.

## Regulatory framework

Please see the regulatory framework for Recreation Settings.

## Best available scientific information used

Please refer to the BASI description under the recreation settings section. All road and trail miles are derived from the Infrastructure database and are approximate.

## Affected Environment

Recreation access to and through the HLC NF is facilitated year-round most commonly by roads, trails, waterways, and airstrips. Forest access, through roads and trails, links local communities with forest settings and facilitates backyard recreation opportunities. In some cases, travel routes are recognized by unique designations, such as the Kings Hill scenic byway, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Most often, main access to the National Forest is provided via public roads and rights-of-way and through easements with private land holders. Once on forest, direction for recreation access is provided through travel management plans. Roads, motorized trails, nonmotorized trails, rivers, and airstrips provide access for visitors to walk, bike, ride, drive, boat, or fly to their destinations.

Recreation through roads and airstrips generally occurs in motorized ROS settings. Trails occur across all ROS settings, depending upon the mode of transport used for the trail use and whether an area is designated for motorized or nonmotorized uses.

The direct effects described in this appendix would occur in most GAs as a function of the suitability within RWAs as well as various approaches to the management of recreation in the Elkhorns GA.

## Travel plan direction

Travel plan direction has been established for all areas of the HLC NF. These travel plans provide direction to users as to which parts of the NF can be accessed for motorized recreation activities. Table 1 lists the name of the travel plans that provide direction for the HLC NF.

**Table 1. Travel plans by GA**

<b>GA</b>	<b>Name of travel plan</b>	<b>Decision signed (ROD or DN)</b>
Big Belts	North Belts	2005
	South Belts Summer	2007
	South Belts Winter	1999
Castles	Little Belts, Castles, and Crazies*	2007
Crazies	Little Belts, Castles, and Crazies*	2007
Divide	Divide Travel Plan	2016
	Soundwood Salvage	1998
	Clancy Unionville	2003
Elkhorns	Elkhorns Travel Plan	1995
	North Elkhorns	2014
Highwoods	Highwoods Access	1993
Little Belts	Little Belts, Castles, and Crazies*	2007
Rocky Mountain Range	Badger Two Medicine	2009
	Birch Creek South	2007
Snowies	Big Snowies Access and Travel Management*	2002
	Little Snowies Vegetative Management and Public Access	1993
Upper Blackfoot	Blackfoot Winter Travel Plan	2013
	Blackfoot Non-Winter Travel Plan	2018

\*Decisions that underwent additional resolution or court review.

## Roads

Roads are the primary routes that recreationists use to access the HLC NF. Roads often provide direct access to recreational facilities. Forest travel plans dictate which roads are open and for how long. Table 2 displays the current miles of road by GA and type of road access on the HLC NF.

**Table 2. Miles of road by GA and by type of road access**

<b>GA</b>	<b>Miles of road open year-round</b>	<b>Miles of road open seasonally</b>	<b>Miles of road closed year-round</b>	<b>Total miles of road</b>
Big Belts	187	198	329	714
Castles	53	9	47	109
Crazies	30	2	90	122
Divide	180	7	309	496

GA	Miles of road open year-round	Miles of road open seasonally	Miles of road closed year-round	Total miles of road
Elkhorns	62	105	132	299
Highwoods	18	0	0	18
Little Belts	424	347	1,014	1,785
Rocky Mountain Range	96	21	27	144
Snowies	42	7	68	117
Upper Blackfoot	204	82	426	712
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,296</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>2,442</b>	<b>4,516</b>

### Trails

Table 3 displays the miles of trails broken out by GA within the planning area. Trails are further identified by motorized trails, nonmotorized trails outside of wilderness, and wilderness trails.

**Table 3. Miles and types of trail by GA**

GA	Miles of motorized trail	Miles of nonmotorized trails outside of wilderness	Miles of wilderness trail	Total miles trail
Big Belts	61	101	37	199
Castles	89	12	0	101
Crazies	32	46	0	78
Divide	60	110	0	170
Elkhorns	6	110	0	116
Highwoods	28	10	0	38
Little Belt Mountains	486	210	0	696
Rocky Mountain Range	50	376	553	979
Snowies	14.1	106	0	120.1
Upper Blackfoot	24	109	96	229
<b>Totals</b>	<b>850.1</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>2,726.1</b>

### Motorized over-snow trails and motorized over-snow areas

The motorized over-snow trails on the HLC NF include both groomed and ungroomed trails and are often only a small portion of a larger network of over-snow trails that extend onto state, county, and private roads and lands. The groomed trails are often maintained by local snowmobile clubs. Table 4 shows the number of miles of groomed and ungroomed trails on the HLC NF.

**Table 4. Miles of motorized over-snow trail by GA**

GA	Miles of groomed trail	Miles of ungroomed trail	Total for GA
Big Belts	73	15	88
Castles	0	38	38
Crazies	0	20	20
Divide	100	25	125
Elkhorns	0	0	0
Highwoods	0	36	36
Little Belt Mountains	292	168	460



GA	Miles of groomed trail	Miles of ungroomed trail	Total for GA
Rocky Mountain Range	0	55	55
Snowies	0	54	54
Upper Blackfoot	85	58	143
<b>Totals</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>1,019</b>

In addition, the Forest has approximately 854,704 acres open for over-snow motorized use during the winter season. Over-snow motorized use is very popular on the Forest. See Table 5.

**Table 5. Acres open to motorized over-snow use by GA**

GA	Acres open to motorized over-snow recreation use
Big Belts	80,026
Castles	55,105
Crazies	21,278
Divide	114,263
Elkhorns	25,349
Highwoods	0
Little Belt Mountains	368,755
Rocky Mountain Range	27,653
Snowies	34,543
Upper Blackfoot	127,732
<b>Total</b>	<b>854,704</b>

### Aviation recreation

Another recreation activity that receives considerable attention within the HLC NF planning area and is growing in popularity is aviation recreation. Owners of small aircraft use backcountry air strips to access dispersed campgrounds or dispersed recreation areas. Table 6 displays these air strips and the GAs in which they are located.

**Table 6. Airstrips and the GAs where they are located**

GA	Name of air strip	Location
Little Belt Mountains	Russian Flats Backcountry Airstrip	T11N R11E Sections 7, 12, and 13
Rocky Mountain Range	Benchmark Backcountry Airstrip	T20N R10W Sections 15, 16, and 22
Upper Blackfoot	Lincoln Community Airport	T14N R08W Sections 19 and 20

## Environmental consequences

### Effects Common to All Alternatives

In all alternatives, natural disturbances, recreation use patterns, and emerging technologies would continue to influence recreation access across the HLC NF. Travel plans would continue to provide site-specific direction for where motorized and nonmotorized uses can take place. The three current airstrips would remain available under all alternatives.

## Effects Common to All Action Alternatives

Desired ROS settings would provide a variety of recreation access opportunities across the HLC NF and travel plans would provide site-specific determinations on where motorized uses may and may not occur. Potential changes to existing travel plans or associated miles of open roads, motorized trails, nonmotorized trails open to mechanized means of transportation, motorized over-snow trails, acres open to motorized over-snow uses, or airstrips may be necessary to meet the suitability direction in the 2020 Forest Plan.

## Effects from forest plan components associated with other resources

Please see the Recreation Access section of the FEIS (Section 3.19.6).

### Alternative A – No Action

No direct effects. No changes to existing travel plans would be made.

### Alternative B

Alternative B identifies nine (9) RWAs on the HLC NF. Motorized and mechanized means of transportation would not be suitable within RWAs in this alternative. In alternative B, changes to the existing travel plans within RWA's would be necessary to meet the intent of the suitability plan components within this alternative.

Approximately 13 miles of open road may be closed in a future decision based on the suitability requirements for RWAs in Alternative B. These miles of open road are in the Snowies and Upper Blackfoot GAs. Table 113 displays the miles of road by GA and the type of road access that would remain available in Alternative B.

**Table 7. Miles of road by GA by type of road access (alternative B)**

GA	Miles of road open year-round	Miles of road open seasonally	Miles of road closed year-round	Total miles of road
Big Belts	187	198	328	713
Castles	53	9	47	109
Crazies	30	2	90	122
Divide	181	7	308	496
Elkhorns	62	105	132	299
Highwoods	18	0	0	18
Little Belts	424	347	1,014	1,785
Rocky Mountain Range	96	21	27	144
Snowies	30	7	81	118
Upper Blackfoot	202	82	428	712
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>2,455</b>	<b>4,516</b>

The total miles of trail on the HLC NF would remain the same in alternative B. However, motorized and mechanized means of transportation (including bicycles) would not be suitable within RWAs. Recreation access on approximately 0.1 mile of motorized trail may be closed in alternative B. This short segment of motorized trail would be converted to a nonmotorized trail and all nonmotorized recreation uses would be suitable on it except mechanized means of transportation. This trail segment is in the Snowies GA and within the Snowies RWA.

Additionally, in alternative B, approximately 204 miles of nonmotorized trails may be closed to mechanized means of transportation, including bicycles. These trails are located within RWAs within the Big Belts, Divide, Little Belts, Snowies, and Upper Blackfoot GAs. Table 8 displays the miles of trails broken out by GA within the planning area. Trails are further identified by motorized, nonmotorized/nonwilderness, and wilderness trails.

**Table 8. Miles of trail by GA and type of trail (alternative B)**

GA	Miles of motorized trail	Miles of nonmotorized trails outside of wilderness	Miles of wilderness trail	Total miles of trail
Big Belts	61	101	37	199
Castles	89	12	0	101
Crazies	32	46	0	78
Divide	60	110	0	170
Elkhorns	6	110	0	116
Highwoods	28	10	0	38
Little Belts	486	210	0	696
Rocky Mountain Range	50	376	553	979
Snowies	14	106.1	0	120.1
Upper Blackfoot	24	109	96	229
<b>Totals</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>1,190.1</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>2,726.1</b>

There are approximately 2 miles of motorized ungroomed over-snow trail within the Big Snowies RWA that may be closed in a future decision to meet the suitability requirements in Alternative B. Table 9 displays the miles of motorized over-snow trail by GA that would remain open in alternative B.

**Table 9. Miles of motorized over-snow trail by GA (alternative B)**

GA	Miles of groomed trail	Miles of ungroomed trail	Total for GA
Big Belts	73	15	88
Castles	0	38	38
Crazies	0	20	20
Divide	100	25	125
Elkhorns	0	0	0
Highwoods	0	36	36
Little Belt Mountains	292	168	460
Rocky Mountain Range	0	55	55
Snowies	0	52	52
Upper Blackfoot	85	58	143
<b>Totals</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>1,017</b>

There are a number of motorized over-snow areas within identified RWAs in alternative B. Motorized uses in RWAs would not be suitable in alternative B. Therefore, motorized over-snow areas would be reduced by approximately 24,403 acres (8,857 acres in Divide GA, 13,148 acres in Big Snowies GA, and 2,398 acres in Upper Blackfoot GA). Table 10 displays the total acres of motorized over-snow areas that would remain open in alternative B.

**Table 10. Acres of motorized over-snow use by GA (alternative B)**

GA	Acres open to motorized over-snow recreation use
Big Belts	80,026
Castles	55,105
Crazies	21,278
Divide	105,406
Elkhorns	25,349
Highwoods	0
Little Belt Mountains	368,755
Rocky Mountain Range	27,653
Snowies	21,395
Upper Blackfoot	125,333
<b>Total</b>	<b>830,300</b>

### Big Log RWA

Big Log RWA is adjacent to the Gates of the Mountain Wilderness Area in the Big Belts GA. The majority of the Big Log RWA lies along the southern boundary of the Gates of the Mountains. However, there are also several small isolated parcels on the northern boundary of the wilderness that are included in the RWA. The majority of the Big Log RWA was identified in the 1986 Helena NF Plan as an RWA. There are currently no existing motorized recreation uses or open roads within the Big Log RWA. However, approximately 4.3 miles of nonmotorized trail would be closed to mechanized means of transportation. Specific trail numbers, names, and mileages are identified below. See Table 11.

**Table 11. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in the Big Log RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative B**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
252	Big Log Gulch	2.1
255	Hunters Gulch	1.0
259	Refrigerator Canyon	1.2
Total		4.3

### Mount Baldy RWA

Mount Baldy RWA is in the Big Belts GA. This RWA consists of high elevation ecosystems dotted with several alpine lakes and unique granite rock formations (the Needles). The Mount Baldy RWA was identified as one of the three RWAs in the 1986 Helena Forest Plan. There are currently no motorized recreation uses or open roads within the Mount Baldy RWA. However, there are approximately 14.4 miles of nonmotorized trail that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation (including bicycles) within this RWA. See Table 12.

**Table 12. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in Mount Baldy RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative B**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
149	Needles	2.2
150	Gipsy/Birch Creek	5.7

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
151	Hidden Lake	3.4
152	Edith Lake	2.1
155	Grace Lake	1.0
Total		14.4

### Electric Peak RWA

The Electric Peak RWA (named Blackfoot Meadows RWA in the DEIS) is located within the Divide GA. Electric Peak RWA lies along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and includes several mountain peaks that are well over 8000 feet in elevation. Portions of this RWA are also identified as an RWA in the current 1986 Helena Forest Plan. However, the Electric Peak RWA in alternative B is not the exact same acreage or configuration as identified in the 1986 Helena Forest Plan.

There are no motorized trails or open roads within the Electric Peak RWA. Approximately 16.6 miles of nonmotorized trail would be closed to mechanized means of transportation (including bicycles) within the Electric Peak RWA. See Table 13. Additionally, an estimated 11.1 acres of motorized over-snow area would also be closed in this alternative.

**Table 13. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in Electric Peak RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative B**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
326	Kading	<0.1
328	Bison-Blackfoot	1.6
329	Blackfoot Meadows	6.9
330	Bison MT	1.0
337	Continental Divide	1.3
359	Larabee Gulch	2.8
362	Monarch Creek	3.0
Total		16.6

### Deep Creek RWA

Deep Creek RWA is in the northwestern corner of the Little Belt Mountains GA. This area is bordered by the Smith River on the west, private lands to the north and south, and by motorized national recreation trails to the south and east. The primary access to this area is from the Smith River, private lands, and from the motorized national recreation trails. There are currently no motorized recreation uses or open roads within the Deep Creek RWA in alternative B. However, there are 12.8 miles of nonmotorized trail that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation within this RWA. See Table 14.

**Table 14. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in Deep Creek RWA to meet the suitability requirements in alternative B**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
303	North Fork Deep Creek	2.3
308	Temple Gulch	4.5
309	Parker Ridge	4.4
311	Smith River	1.6

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
Total		12.8

### Big Snowies RWA

The Big Snowies RWA is in the Big Snowies GA south of Lewistown, Montana. The primary ridgeline of this island mountain formation is oriented east-west and is 25 miles long and 10 miles wide. The area is dominated by limestone geology and karst topography which conceals many caves including an ice cave on West Peak. The RWA is also characterized at its highest elevations by a treeless plateau of alpine with rock and tundra.

The Big Snowies RWA is popular with mountain bike users in the summer and snowmobile users in the winter months. There are 11.8 miles of open road and 0.1 mile of motorized trail within the Big Snowies that would be closed to motorized use and mechanized means of transportation to meet the suitability requirements of alternative B. There are approximately 96.1 miles of nonmotorized trail that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation. See Table 15, Table 16, and Table 17. Additionally, an estimated 13,148 acres of motorized over-snow uses would be closed to motorized use and mechanized means of transportation in this alternative.

**Table 15. Roads that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in Big Snowies RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative B**

Road number	Road name	Miles
270	Timber Creek	0.1
656	656	1.8
8954	Snowy Ridge	1.3
15862	Webbers Road	0.1
15869	Careless Canyon	0.1
15852	Dry Coulee Loop	0.7
8950	Dry Coulee Permit Road	1.4
8955	Rogers Guard Station – Permit Road	0.6
210001	Permit Road	2.2
410001	Permit Road	1.9
8954001	Permit Road	0.5
8954002	Permit Road	0.1
8954004	Permit Road	1.0
Total		11.8

**Table 16. Motorized trail that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in Big Snowies RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative B**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
652	Southside	0.1

**Table 17. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in Big Snowies RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative B**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
403	Grandview	4.1
403-A	Grandview Point	<0.1
405	V.J. Springs	0.1
406	Jump Off Peak	5.3
410	E FK Big Spring Creek	9.3
421	Green Pole Ski	0.2
445	Crystal Cascades	2.7
445-A	Crystal Cascades Connector	1.7
481	Dry Pole Creek	4.8
483	Logan Ridge	2.3
489	East Fork Cottonwood Creek	8.5
490	West Peak	7.1
490-A	West Peak Alt Spur	0.8
491	Promontory Point	0.4
492	Hidden Basin Wildflower	<0.1
493	Ulhorn	18.4
494	Maynard Ridge	4.8
627	Swimming Woman	2.2
627-A	Swimming Woman Alt	2.2
650	Big Snowy Trail	6.6
654	Neil Creek	1.9
655	Blake Creek Summit	1.5
670	Timber Creek	3.6
671	Bad Canyon	2.7
Total		96.1

### Silver King RWA

The Silver King RWA (named Dearborn Silver King in the DEIS) is in the Upper Blackfoot GA north and east of Lincoln, Montana. This RWA lies adjacent to the Scapegoat Wilderness Area in the upper reaches of the Alice Creek and Landers Fork drainages.

There are 0.6 miles of road within the Silver King RWA that would be closed to motorized use and mechanized means of transportation to meet the suitability requirements of alternative B. See Table 18. There are also 21.1 miles of nonmotorized trail that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation (including bicycles). See Table 19. Additionally, approximately 17.2 acres of motorized over-snow areas would be closed to motorized winter uses and mechanized means of transportation (including bicycles). There are no motorized trails in the Silver King RWA.

**Table 18. Open roads that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in the Silver King RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative B**

Road number	Road name	Miles
PVT-1077	PVT-GRIZ1077	0.60
PVT-1078	PVT-GRIZ1078	<0.1
Total		0.6

**Table 19. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in the Silver King RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative B**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
219	East Fork Falls Creek	0.2
420	Silver King Trail	2.9
438	Landers Fork Trail	3.8
440	Continental Divide Trail	6.0
477	Lone Mountain Trail	2.3
481	Mainline Trail	1.2
490	Alice Creek	4.7
Total		21.1

### Red Mountain RWA

The Red Mountain RWA is located south and east of Red Mountain Peak in Red Creek, within the Copper Creek drainage. This small RWA borders the Scapegoat Wilderness Area and is also a Research Natural Area. There are no motorized uses or open roads within this RWA. However, there is one very short segment (<0.1 miles) of nonmotorized trail that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation (including bicycles) and is described in Table 20.

**Table 20. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in Red Mountain RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative B**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
423	Red Mountain Trail	<0.1

### Arrastra Creek RWA

The Arrastra Creek RWA is located in the Upper Blackfoot GA north and west of Lincoln, Montana. This RWA lies adjacent to the Scapegoat Wilderness Area in the upper reaches of the Beaver Creek and Dry Creek drainages and includes Arrastra Mountain.

There are no open roads or motorized trails within the Arrastra Creek RWA. However, there are 8.7 miles of nonmotorized trail that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation. See Table 21. Additionally, approximately 2,240 acres of motorized over-snow areas would be closed to motorized winter uses and mechanized means of transportation.



**Table 21. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in Arrastra Creek RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative B**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
482	Arrastra Creek Trail	4.2
483	Dry Creek Trail	1.5
488	Porcupine Basin	3.0
Total		8.7

### Nevada Mountain RWA

Nevada Mountain RWA is located south and west of Lincoln, Montana in the Upper Blackfoot GA. This large area includes Nevada Mountain, Black Mountain, and the head end of many drainages such as Nevada Creek and Washington Creek, as well as several smaller drainages that flow into Poorman Creek. Portions of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail also cross through this RWA.

There are 1.1 miles of open road within the Nevada Mountain RWA. There are no motorized trails. See Table 22. There are 29.8 miles of nonmotorized trail that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation. See Table 23. Additionally, approximately 8,977 acres of motorized over-snow areas would be closed to motorized winter uses and mechanized means of transportation (including bicycles).

**Table 22. Open roads that would be closed to motorized use and mechanized means of transportation in the Nevada Mountain RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative B**

Road number	Road name	Miles
296-A2	Huckleberry Creek	1.1
Total		1.1

**Table 23. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in the Nevada Mountain RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative B**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
337	Continental Divide Trail	4.2
405	Washington Gulch Trail	2.1
440	Continental Divide Trail	6.9
466	Nevada Creek Trail	4.3
467	Gould/Helmville Trail	7.2
487	Prickly/Nevada Trail	5.1
Total		29.8

### Alternative C

Alternative C was developed to address several comments received during public scoping of the proposed action. Specifically, the mountain bike community was concerned about potential loss of access to areas identified as RWA's, especially in the Elkhorns and Snowies GAs. To address these concerns, alternative C identifies the same nine (9) RWAs as alternative B, but motorized and mechanized means of transportation would be suitable within alternative C, so long as these uses do not affect the wilderness characteristics within the RWAs. Therefore, there would be no road, trail, or over-snow acres closed

within RWAs in alternative C and the miles of open roads, motorized trails, and motorized over-snow areas in the RWAs would remain the same as those in alternative A, the no action.

**Elkhorns Winter Recreation Area**

A change to ROS settings in the center of the Elkhorns (see the Recreation Settings section) would affect the recreation access within the Elkhorns GA in alternative C. Currently, in the winter, the Elkhorns are open to motorized over-snow uses within a semi-primitive motorized ROS setting. In alternative C, the semi-primitive motorized setting would be changed to a semi-primitive nonmotorized setting, and over-snow motorized recreation uses would no longer be suitable. This change in winter ROS would reduce the amount of available motorized over-snow acres in the current Elkhorns winter recreation area by approximately, 19,000 acres. Table 24 displays the total acres of motorized over-snow areas that would remain open in alternative C, to meet the suitability requirements of this alternative.

**Table 24. Acres of motorized over-snow use by GA (alternative C)**

GA	Acres open to motorized over snow recreation use
Big Belts	80,026
Castles	55,105
Crazies	21,278
Divide	114,263
Elkhorns	0
Highwoods	0
Little Belt Mountains	368,755
Rocky Mountain Range	27,653
Snowies	34,543
Upper Blackfoot	127,732
<b>Total</b>	<b>829,355</b>

**Mechanized uses with a core area of the Elkhorns**

Public comments led the HLC NF to consider an alternative that would close the core area of the Elkhorns GA to mechanized means of transportation, including bicycles, for the protection of wildlife habitat. In alternative C, approximately 59 miles of nonmotorized trails would be closed to mechanized means of transportation to meet the suitability requirements of this alternative. These trails would remain on the landscape and open to other nonmotorized uses and would only exclude mechanized means of transportation. Table 25 lists the specific trails that would be closed to this use in the core area of the Elkhorns GA.

**Table 25. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in the core of the Elkhorns GA to meet the suitability requirements alternative C**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
101	Eagle Interpretive	1.11
109	Crow Creek	5.10
110	Poe Park	3.08
112	Longfellow Clear Creek	8.78
113	Elk Park	5.15

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
114	Moose Creek	3.59
115	Beaver Creek	7.22
116	Sheep Park	1.89
117	Pole Creek	0.86
127	South Crow Lakes	1.57
128	Hall Creek	1.29
129	Manley Park	1.48
130	Little Tizer Creek	3.05
131	Leslie Lake	2.27
133	Crazy Creek Longfellow	2.96
134	Falls Creek	1.93
135	Long Park	4.40
302	McClellan Creek	3.16
TOTAL		58.88

## Alternative D

Alternative D responds to comments received during public scoping asking the Forest to consider an alternative that increases the number and acreage of RWAs and primitive recreation opportunities on the Forest. To address these concerns, additional RWAs and several primitive, undeveloped areas are identified in alternative D. Motorized and mechanized means of transportation (including bicycles) would not be suitable within RWAs in alternative D. Identifying additional RWAs would create a need for reductions in motorized and mechanized means of transportation to meet the suitability requirements in the 2020 Forest Plan, in alternative D.

Alternative D also identifies additional primitive, undeveloped areas outside of RWAs. Motorized uses would not be suitable in these primitive undeveloped areas. However, mechanized means of transportation (including bicycles) would be suitable within them.

Approximately 34 miles of open road within RWAs would be closed in alternative D. Road closures would occur within RWAs in the Big Belts, Castles, Divide, Little Belt Mountains, Big Snowies, and Upper Blackfoot GAs. Table 26 displays the miles of road by GA and the type of road access that would be available in alternative D.

**Table 26. Miles of road by GA by type of road access (alternative D)**

GA	Miles of road open year-round	Miles of road open seasonally	Miles of road closed year-round	Total miles of road
Big Belts	187	197	329	713
Castles	47	9	53	109
Crazies	30	2	90	122
Divide	179	7	310	496
Elkhorns	62	105	132	299
Highwoods	18	0	0	18
Little Belts	413	346	1,026	1,785

GA	Miles of road open year-round	Miles of road open seasonally	Miles of road closed year-round	Total miles of road
Rocky Mountain Range	96	21	27	144
Snowies	30	7	81	118
Upper Blackfoot	202	82	428	712
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>2,476</b>	<b>4,516</b>

<sup>1</sup>Miles of road outside of GA boundaries that the FS manages on private or other public lands.

Approximately 60 miles of motorized trail would be closed to motorized uses within RWAs in the Castles, Divide, Little Belt Mountains, and Big Snowies GAs to meet the suitability requirements of this alternative. These motorized trails would be converted to nonmotorized trails and all nonmotorized recreation uses would be suitable except mechanized means of transportation.

An additional 328 miles of nonmotorized trails would be closed to mechanized means of transportation within RWAs in alternative D. These trails are located within the Big Belts, Castles, Crazyes, Divide, Little Belt Mountains, Snowies, and Upper Blackfoot GAs.

Table 27 displays the miles of trails broken out by GA within the planning area. Trails are further identified by motorized, nonmotorized/nonwilderness and wilderness trails.

**Table 27. Miles of trail by GA and type of trail (alternative D)**

GA	Miles of motorized trail	Miles of nonmotorized trails outside of wilderness	Miles of wilderness trail	Total miles of trail
Big Belts	61	101	37	199
Castles	57	44	0	101
Crazyes	32	46	0	78
Divide	54	116	0	170
Elkhorns	6	110	0	116
Highwoods	28	10	0	38
Little Belt Mountains	464	232	0	696
Rocky Mountain Range	50	376	553	979
Snowies	14	106.1	0	120.1
Upper Blackfoot	24	109	96	229
<b>Totals</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>1,250.1</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>2,726.1</b>

Motorized over-snow trails would not be suitable with RWAs in alternative D. Therefore, approximately 9 miles of motorized over-snow trail (both groomed and ungroomed) would be closed to meet the suitability requirements of this alternative. These motorized over-snow trails are located within the Big Belt (Electric Peak RWA), Little Belt (Big Horn Thunder and Tenderfoot Creek RWAs), and Big Snowies (Big Snowies RWA) GAs. Table 28 displays the miles of motorized over-snow trail that would remain available by GA in alternative D.

**Table 28. Miles of motorized over-snow trail by GA (alternative D)**

GA	Miles of groomed trail	Miles of ungroomed trail	Total for GA
Big Belts	73	15	88
Castles	0	38	38

<b>GA</b>	<b>Miles of groomed trail</b>	<b>Miles of ungroomed trail</b>	<b>Total for GA</b>
Crazies	0	20	20
Divide	98	25	123
Elkhorns	0	0	0
Highwoods	0	36	36
Little Belt Mountains	292	163	455
Rocky Mountain Range	0	55	55
Snowies	0	52	52
Upper Blackfoot	85	58	143
<b>Totals</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>1,010</b>

Several motorized over-snow areas are also located within identified RWAs in alternative D. Motorized over-snow recreation use within RWAs would not be suitable in alternative D. Therefore, in alternative D the amount of motorized over-snow acres would be reduced by approximately 79,192 acres (4 acres in the Big Belts GA, 26,331 in Castles GA, 4,745 acres in Crazies GA, 19,388 acres Divide GA, 13,178 in the Little Belts GA, 13,148 acres in Big Snowies GA, and 2,398 acres in Upper Blackfoot GA). Table 29 displays the total acres of motorized over-snow areas that would remain open in alternative D.

**Table 29. Acres of motorized over-snow use by GA (alternative D)**

<b>GA</b>	<b>Acres open to motorized over-snow recreation use</b>
Big Belts	80,022
Castles	28,773
Crazies	16,533
Divide	94,875
Elkhorns	25,349
Highwoods	0
Little Belt Mountains	355,577
Rocky Mountain Range	27,653
Snowies	21,395
Upper Blackfoot	125,333
<b>Total</b>	<b>775,510</b>

### **Big Log; Mount Baldy; Deep Creek; Big Snowies; Silver King; Red Mountain; and Arrastra Creek RWAs**

The potential direct effects to recreation access to meet the RWA suitability requirements in these RWAs would be the same as those described above in alternative B.

### **Camas Creek RWA**

Camas Creek RWA is in the Big Belts GA. This RWA contains the high peaks of Boulder Mountain and Boulder Baldy. Additionally, it contains the Boulder Lakes and Camas Lakes areas.

There are currently 0.3 mile of open road and 3.8 acres of motorized over-snow areas within the Camas Creek RWA. This open road and these acres would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation to meet the suitability requirements in alternative D. There are no motorized trails within

the Camas Creek RWA, but there are approximately 16.1 miles of nonmotorized trail that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation. See Table 30 and Table 31.

**Table 30. Open road that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in Camas Creek RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Road number	Road name	Miles
383	Camas	0.3

**Table 31. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in the Camas Creek RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
118	Belt Mountain Divide	6.4
140	Camas	2.3
140A	Camas Lake	0.9
141	Pickfoot	1.9
142	Boulder Lakes	4.5
143	Spruce Creek	0.1
Total		16.1

### Wapiti Peak RWA

Wapiti Peak RWA is in the west side of the Castles GA. This RWA contains a series of high peaks including Beartrap Peak, Woodchuck Mountain, Wapiti Peak, Elk Peak, and Castle Mountain. The area is characterized by numerous castle-like outcrops of granite. Most of the higher elevations are covered by forest with large open grasslands dominating the lower elevations.

There are currently 6.2 miles of open road, 32.1 miles of motorized trail, and 26,332 acres of motorized over-snow area within the Wapiti Peak RWA. These areas would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation to meet the suitability requirements in alternative D. Additionally, there are approximately 9.1 miles of nonmotorized trail that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation. See Table 32, Table 33, and Table 34.

**Table 32. Open roads that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in Wapiti Peak RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Road number	Road name	Miles
8878	South Castle Lake	2.8
8880	South Castle Lake/Reynolds	0.6
15991	Cumberlin Divide	0.7
15993	Wapiti Burn	0.3
15995	Frontier Road	0.6
15998	Little Oly Can Road	1.2
Total		6.2

**Table 33. Motorized trail that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in the Wapiti Peak RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
618	Willow Creek/Warm Springs Creek	2.2
622	Castle Elk Connector	3.2
624	Alabough-Castle Lake	1.3
713	Fourmile Creek	0.4
713-A	Fourmile Connector	1.3
716	Grasshopper	2.1
717	Wapiti Peak	6.8
718	Elk Peak	5.4
719	Manger Park	4.7
723	Horse Park	2.5
725	Woodchuck	2.2
Total		32.1

**Table 34. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in the Wapiti Peak RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
617	Loweth	0.7
618	Willow Creek/Warm Springs Creek	4.4
713	Fourmile Creek	1.3
716	Grasshopper	2.7
Total		9.1

**Loco Mountain RWA**

Loco Mountain RWA is in the east side of the Crazyes GA. This RWA lies at the north end of the Crazy Mountain range and shares a border with the Gallatin NF. The area contains several high, craggy peaks that are often covered in talus, scree, and boulder areas. Vegetation on the upper ridges is mostly alpine and lacks forest cover. Glaciation has imparted many of these landforms with sharp and scoured edges.

There are no open roads or motorized trails in the Loco Mountain RWA. Approximately 4,754 acres would be available for motorized over-snow areas. These motorized recreation uses would be unsuitable in alternative D. Additionally, there are approximately 22.9 miles of nonmotorized trail that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation within this RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D. See Table 35.

**Table 35. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in the Loco Mountain RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
630	Boundary	2.9

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
630-A	South Boundary	0.5
631	Little Elk	0.6
632	Loco Creek	1.7
633	Loco Creek/Castle Creek Connector	0.8
634	Groveland	0.4
636	Crow Creek	6.8
640	Shields Big Elk	4.8
641	Castle Creek	4.4
641-A	Old 634 Off Castle	0.0
Total		22.9

### Electric Peak RWA

The size and configuration of the Electric Peak RWA in alternative D is different from the Electric Peak RWA identified in alternatives B and C. In alternative D, the RWA would be expanded north of the Little Blackfoot River and would extend along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail east of Bison Mountain.

In alternative D there would be no open roads within the Electric Peak RWA but there would be approximately 2.4 miles of motorized trail closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D. Approximately 22.5 miles of nonmotorized trail would be closed to mechanized means of transportation. See Table 36 and Table 37. Additionally, an estimated 5,107 acres of motorized over-snow area would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation.

**Table 36. Motorized trails that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in the Electric Peak RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
501	Limburger Spring	1.9
1870-T	Baldy Ridge	0.5
Total		2.4

**Table 37. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in the Electric Peak RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
326	Kading	1.6
328	Bison-Blackfoot	1.6
329	Blackfoot Meadows	7.7
330	Bison MT	0.9
337	Continental Divide	4.9
359	Larabee Gulch	2.8
362	Monarch Creek	3.0
Total		22.5



## Colorado Mountain RWA

Colorado Mountain RWA is in the upper reaches of the Colorado Gulch drainage in the Divide GA, south and west of Helena, MT. This RWA also extends into the Tenmile watershed on its north and western edges. The busy, dispersed recreation area known as the South Hills makes up its eastern boundary. This RWA also contains the high mountain peaks of Black Mountain and Colorado Mountain as well as the Lazyman IRA.

There would be no open roads or motorized trails within this RWA. Approximately 1,241 acres of motorized over-snow area would also be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation to meet the suitability requirements in this alternative. Additionally, there is one nonmotorized trail (1.9 miles in length) that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation. See Table 38.

**Table 38. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in the Colorado Mountain RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
375	Tenmile Environmental	1.9

## Tenderfoot Creek RWA

The Tenderfoot Creek RWA is located within the Tenderfoot Creek drainage in the Little Belt Mountains GA. This RWA extends from the Smith river drainage on the west to just west of Williams Mountain in the east. The southern border of the RWA follows Tenderfoot and South Fork Tenderfoot Creek and skirts larger parcels of private land on the southern border.

The Tenderfoot Creek RWA does not contain any open roads. However, there are approximately 5.9 miles of motorized trails and 5, 872 acres of motorized over-snow areas that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation to meet the suitability requirements of this alternative. Additionally, there are 29.8 miles of nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation. See Table 39 and Table 40.

**Table 39. Motorized trail that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in the Tenderfoot Creek RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
301	Old Baldy	0.1
343	Balsinger to Taylor	0.8
345	Bald Hills	5.0
Total		5.9

**Table 40. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in the Tenderfoot Creek RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
301	Old Baldy	4.9
310	Bear Gulch	2.8
317	Strawberry Ridge	4.2
331	Cow Coulee	1.5

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
342	Tenderfoot	12.2
345	Bald Hills	1.2
354	Double Gulch	3.0
Total		29.8

**Bighorn Thunder RWA**

The Bighorn Thunder RWA is located east of Logging Creek and north of the Divide Road in the Little Belt Mountains GA. This RWA contains the high mountain peaks of Big Horn Mountain and Thunder Mountain. Pilgrim Creek runs north-south and bisects the area.

This RWA contain approximately 5.9 miles of open road, 15.7 miles of motorized trail, and 2,309 acres of motorized over-snow recreation area. Motorized and mechanized means of transportation would not be suitable on these roads nor in areas within RWAs. Additionally, there are 16.0 miles of nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in this RWA. See Table 41, Table 42, and Table 43.

**Table 41. Open roads that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in Big Horn Thunder RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Road number	Road name	Miles
839-F	Lower Pilgrim Trailhead	0.1
3384	Big Timber Gulch - ATM	3.0
6384	Log Spur Wilson 9-Part	2.4
839067	839067	0.1
6384001	UND6384001	0.3
Total		5.9

**Table 42. Motorized trail that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in the Big Horn Thunder RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
304	Pilgrim Creek	9.3
305	Deer Creek	1.6
315	Tobins Gulch	4.8
Total		15.7

**Table 43. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in the Big Horn Thunder RWA to meet the suitability requirements in alternative D**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
304	Pilgrim Creek	2.5
318	Dry Gulch	2.6
322	Tillinghast Creek	4.8

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
336	Bighorn	6.1
Total		16.0

### Middle Fork Judith RWA

The Middle Fork Judith RWA is in the Little Belt Mountains GA. This area includes the lower Lost Fork and Middle Fork of the Judith River with the major high points being Yogo Peak, Cabin Mountain, Grendah Mountain, Sandpoint Mountain, and Lost Fork Ridge. A large portion of this RWA is also designated as the Middle Fork Judith WSA. Only the northeastern portion of the WSA is not included in the RWA boundary.

There are 4.8 miles of open road and approximately 4,997 acres of motorized over-snow recreation uses within this RWA. These motorized miles and acres would be unsuitable for motorized and mechanized means of transportation in alternative D. There are no motorized trails within the Middle Fork Judith RWA. However, there are approximately 56 miles of nonmotorized trail that would be unsuitable for mechanized means of transportation. See Table 44 and Table 45.

**Table 44. Open roads that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in Middle Fork Judith RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Road number	Road name	Miles
6534	Ettien Ridge NO 3	4.2
6538	Middle Fork Cabin #1	0.6
Total		4.8

**Table 45. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in the Middle Fork Judith RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
407	Doerr Creek	3.6
409	Lost Fork Judith River	12.2
422	West Fork Lost Fork	5.1
428	Prospect Ridge	5.3
429	King Creek	1.9
433	Burris-Ettien	2.3
434	Halzel Coulee	3.5
436	Sand Point Ridge	4.4
441	Cleveland Creek	7.0
442	Stiner Creek	3.7
444	Woodchopper Ridge	3.4
450	Yogo Creek	3.6
Total		56.0

## Nevada Mountain RWA

The size and configuration of the Nevada Mountain RWA in alternative D is different than the Nevada Mountain RWA identified in alternatives B and C. In alternative D, the Nevada Mountain RWA would be expanded to include a greater portion of Deadman Creek.

There are approximately 1.3 miles open road and 3.4 miles of motorized trails that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation within this RWA in alternative D to meet the suitability requirements of this alternative. In alternative D, 30.7 miles of nonmotorized trail would be closed to mechanized means of transportation. See Table 46, Table 47, and Table 48. Additionally, an estimated 13,171 acres of motorized over-snow areas would be closed to motorized winter uses and mechanized means of transportation.

**Table 46. Open roads that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in Nevada Mountain RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Road number	Road name	Miles
774	Cottonwood Gulch	1.0
774-B1	Cottonwood Gulch Spur B1	0.3
1845	Towsley Gulch	0.0
Total		1.3

**Table 47. Motorized trail that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in the Nevada Mountain RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
1811-T	Jerusha Gulch	3.4

**Table 48. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in the Nevada Mountain RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative D**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
337	Continental Divide Trail	5.1
405	Washington Gulch Trail	2.1
440	Continental Divide Trail	6.9
466	Nevada Creek Trail	4.3
467	Gould/Helmville Trail	7.2
487	Prickly/Nevada Trail	5.1
Total		30.7

## Alternative E

There are no RWAs identified in alternative E. Therefore, there would be no closures, or changes to current travel plans resulting from this alternative.

## Alternative F

Alternative F responds to comments regarding mechanized means of transportation (including bicycles) and concerns about ROS settings received during of the comment period on the DEIS. This alternative identifies seven (7) RWAs, which is fewer than the number identified in the proposed action. Similar to alternatives B and D, motorized and mechanized means of transportation (including bicycles) would be unsuitable within RWAs in alternative F. Identifying RWAs would create a need for reductions in access of motorized and mechanized means of transportation to meet the suitability requirements in the 2020 Forest Plan, in alternative F.

Alternative F also identifies several additional primitive, undeveloped areas outside of RWA boundaries that would be managed for a primitive ROS setting. Motorized uses would not be suitable in these primitive undeveloped areas. However, mechanized means of transportation (including bicycles) would be suitable within them.

Approximately 8 miles of open road would be closed within RWAs in alternative F. Road closures would occur in the Big Snowies and Upper Blackfoot GAs. Table 49 displays the miles of road by GA and the type of road access that would be available to meet the suitability requirements in alternative F.

**Table 49. Miles of road by GA by type of road access (alternative F)**

GA	Miles of road open year-round	Miles of road open seasonally	Miles of road closed year-round	Total miles of road
Big Belts	187	198	328	713
Castles	53	9	47	109
Crazies	30	2	90	122
Divide	181	7	309	497
Elkhorns	62	105	132	299
Highwoods	18	0	0	18
Little Belts	424	347	1,014	1,785
Rocky Mountain Range	96	21	27	144
Snowies	35	7	75	117
Upper Blackfoot	202	82	428	712
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>4,516</b>

Approximately 0.2 miles of motorized trail would be closed to motorized uses within RWAs in the Big Snowies and Upper Blackfoot GAs. These motorized trails would be converted to nonmotorized trails and all nonmotorized recreation uses would be suitable except mechanized means of transportation. An additional 135 miles of nonmotorized trails would be closed to mechanized means of transportation within RWAs in alternative F. These trails are located within the Big Belts, Divide, Snowies and Upper Blackfoot GAs. Table 50 displays the miles of trails broken out by GA within the planning area. Trails are further identified by motorized, nonmotorized/nonwilderness and wilderness trails.

**Table 50. Miles of trail by GA and type of trail (alternative F)**

<b>GA</b>	<b>Miles of motorized trail</b>	<b>Miles of nonmotorized trails outside of wilderness</b>	<b>Miles of wilderness trail</b>	<b>Total miles of trail</b>
Big Belts	61	101	37	199
Castles	89	12	0	101
Crazies	32	46	0	78
Divide	60	110	0	170
Elkhorns	6	110	0	116
Highwoods	28	10	0	38
Little Belts	486	210	0	696
Rocky Mountain Range	50	376	553	979
Snowies	14	106.1	0	120.1
Upper Blackfoot	24	109.1	96	229.1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>1,190.2</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>2,726.2</b>

There are approximately 2 miles of ungroomed motorized over-snow trail in the Big Snowies RWA in alternative F. Table 51 displays the miles of motorized over-snow trail available by GA in alternative F.

**Table 51. Miles of motorized over-snow trail by GA (alternative F)**

<b>GA</b>	<b>Miles of groomed trail</b>	<b>Miles of ungroomed trail</b>	<b>Total in GA</b>
Big Belts	73	15	88
Castles	0	38	38
Crazies	0	20	20
Divide	100	25	125
Elkhorns	0	0	0
Highwoods	0	36	36
Little Belt Mountains	292	168	460
Rocky Mountain Range	0	55	55
Snowies	0	52	52
Upper Blackfoot	85	58	143
<b>Totals</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>1,017</b>

Several motorized over-snow areas are located within identified RWAs in alternative F. Motorized uses within RWAs would not be suitable in alternative F. Therefore, the amount of motorized over-snow areas would be reduced by approximately 8,046 acres (7,355 acres in Divide GA, 40 acres in Big Snowies GA, and 651 acres in Upper Blackfoot GA) to meet the suitability requirements of this alternative. Table 52 displays the total acres of motorized over-snow areas that would remain open in alternative F.

**Table 52. Acres open to motorized over-snow use by GA (alternative F)**

<b>GA</b>	<b>Acres open to motorized over-snow recreation use</b>
Big Belts	80,026
Castles	55,105
Crazies	21,278
Divide	106,908
Elkhorns	25,349
Highwoods	0
Little Belt Mountains	368,755
Rocky Mountain Range	27,653
Snowies	34,503
Upper Blackfoot	127,081
<b>Total</b>	<b>846,658</b>

### **Big Log and Electric Peak RWAs**

The direct effects to recreation access to meet the RWA suitability requirements in these RWAs would be the same as those described above in alternative B.

### **Mount Baldy RWA**

Mount Baldy RWA is located in the Big Belts GA. This RWA consists of high elevation ecosystems dotted with a number of alpine lakes and unique granite rock formations (the Needles). The Mount Baldy RWA was identified as one of the three RWAs in the 1986 Helena Forest Plan. The northwest boundary of the Mount Baldy RWA was set back from the private property boundary line to allow for flexibility in other resource management in that area.

There are currently no motorized recreation uses or open roads within the Mount Baldy RWA in alternative F. However, there are approximately 14.3 miles of nonmotorized trail that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation within this RWA. See Table 53.

**Table 53. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in Mount Baldy RWA to meet the suitability requirement of alternative F**

<b>Trail number</b>	<b>Trail name</b>	<b>Miles</b>
149	Needles	2.1
150	Gipsy/Birch Creek	5.7
151	Hidden Lake	3.4
152	Edith Lake	2.1
155	Grace Lake	1.0
Total		14.3

### Big Snowies RWA

The Big Snowies RWA is in the Big Snowies GA south of Lewistown, Montana. The primary ridgeline of this island mountain formation is oriented east-west and is 25 miles long and 10 miles wide. The area is dominated by limestone geology and karst topography which conceals many caves including an ice cave on West Peak. The Big Snowies RWA changes in size and shape from the proposed action (alternative B) in alternative F. The western 1/3 of the mountain range is designated as the Grandview recreation area in alternative F. See the Grandview recreation area in Section 3.21.31 and 3.21.32 in the FEIS.

Approximately 6.2 miles of open road and 0.1 mile of motorized trail would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in the Big Snowies RWA in alternative F. Additionally, there are approximately 59.3 miles of nonmotorized trail that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation within the Big Snowies RWA. The following tables describe the specific open roads, motorized trail, and nonmotorized trails that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in the Big Snowies RWA to meet the suitability requirements in alternative F.

**Table 54. Open roads that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in Big Snowies RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative F**

Road number	Road name	Miles
270	Timber Creek	0.1
656	656	1.7
8950	Dry Coulee-Permit Road	1.1
8954	Snowy Ridge	1.3
15862	Webbers Road	0.1
15852	Dry Coulee Loop – Permit Road	0.3
8954001	Permit Road	0.5
8954002	Permit Road	0.1
8954004	Permit Road	1.0
Total		6.2

**Table 55. Motorized trail that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in Big Snowies RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative F**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
652	Southside	0.1

**Table 56. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in Big Snowies RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative F**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
406	Jump Off Peak	0.9
410	E FK Big Spring Creek	9.0
489	East Fork Cottonwood Creek	8.4
493	Ulhorn	14.2
494	Maynard Ridge	5.35



Trail number	Trail name	Miles
627	Swimming Woman	2.2
627-A	Swimming Woman Alt	2.2
650	Big Snowy Trail	6.7
652	Southside	4.9
670	Timber Creek	3.6
671	Bad Canyon	2.8
Total		59.3

### Silver King RWA

The Silver King RWA is located in the Upper Blackfoot GA north and east of Lincoln, Montana. This RWAs lies adjacent to the Scapegoat Wilderness Area in the upper reaches of the Alice Creek and Landers Fork drainages.

There are no open roads or motorized trails within the Silver King RWA. However, there are 19.3 miles of nonmotorized trail that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation. See Table 57. Additionally, approximately 12.5 acres of motorized over-snow areas would be closed to motorized winter uses and mechanized means of transportation (including bicycles).

**Table 57. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in the Silver King RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative F**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
420	Silver King Trail	2.9
438	Landers Fork Trail	3.8
440	Continental Divide Trail	4.3
477	Lone Mountain Trail	2.3
481	Mainline Trail	1.2
490	Alice Creek	4.8
Total		19.3

### Red Mountain RWA

The Red Mountain RWA is located south and east of Red Mountain Peak in Red Creek, within the Copper Creek drainage. This small RWA borders the Scapegoat Wilderness Area and is also a research natural area. The size of the Red Mountain RWA would increase in alternative F, as the southern boundary extends to include the entire Red Creek drainage.

There are no motorized uses or open roads within this RWA. However, there is one very short segment (<0.1 miles) of nonmotorized trail that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation (including bicycles) and is described in Table 58.

**Table 58. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in Red Mountain RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative F**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
423	Red Mountain Trail	<0.1

### Nevada Mountain RWA

Nevada Mountain RWA is located south and west of Lincoln, Montana in the Upper Blackfoot GA. This large area includes Nevada Mountain, Black Mountain, and the head end of many drainages such as Nevada Creek and Washington Creek, as well as several smaller drainages that flow into Poorman Creek. Portions of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail also cross through this RWA.

There are no open roads within this RWA. However, there is approximately 0.1 mile of motorized trail and 21 miles of nonmotorized trail that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation (including bicycles). See Table 59 and Table 60. Additionally, approximately 7,345 acres of motorized over-snow areas would be closed to motorized winter uses and mechanized means of transportation (including bicycles).

**Table 59. Motorized trail that would be closed to motorized and mechanized means of transportation in Nevada Mountain RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative F**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
312	Cellar Gulch	0.1

**Table 60. Nonmotorized trails that would be closed to mechanized means of transportation in Nevada Mountain RWA to meet the suitability requirements of alternative F**

Trail number	Trail name	Miles
337	Continental Divide Trail	5.6
405	Washington Gulch Trail	2.0
440	Continental Divide Trail	6.4
466	Nevada Creek Trail	4.3
487	Prickly/Nevada Trail	2.7
Total		21.0

### Elkhorns Winter Recreation Area

Similar to alternative C, a change to ROS settings in the center of the Elkhorns (see the Recreation Settings section) would affect the recreation access within the Elkhorns GA in alternative F. Currently, in the winter, the Elkhorns are open to motorized over-snow uses within a semi-primitive motorized ROS setting. In alternative C, the semi-primitive motorized setting would be changed to a semi-primitive nonmotorized setting, and over-snow motorized recreation uses would no longer be suitable. This change in winter ROS would reduce the amount of available motorized over-snow acres in the current Elkhorns winter recreation area by approximately, 19,000 acres. Table 61 displays the total acres of motorized over-snow areas that would remain open in alternative C, to meet the suitability requirements of this alternative.

**Table 61. Acres open to motorized over-snow use by GA (alternative F)**

GA	Acres open to motorized over snow recreation use
Big Belts	80,026
Castles	55,105
Crazies	21,278
Divide	114,263

<b>GA</b>	<b>Acres open to motorized over snow recreation use</b>
Elkhorns	0
Highwoods	0
Little Belt Mountains	368,755
Rocky Mountain Range	27,653
Snowies	34,543
Upper Blackfoot	127,732
<b>Total</b>	<b>829,355</b>

## Cumulative Effects

Please see the cumulative effects analysis for the Recreation Access section of the FEIS (Section 3.19.6).

## Conclusions

In alternative A, recreation access would continue to be managed under the 1986 plans. Travel plans would continue to provide the direction for where motorized uses can and cannot occur. Wilderness and other laws may determine where future changes to recreation access may occur.

Alternative E does not identify RWAs and there would be no changes to travel plans in this alternative.

The direct effects that would result from implementation of the suitability requirements of the 2020 Forest Plan would vary in alternatives B, C, D, and F. These changes would generally be minor in the context of the total amount and types of recreation access that would remain available across the HLC NF. There are currently 3 airstrips located in the HLC NF and there would be no changes to those airstrips in any of the alternatives.

Table 62 compares the miles of open road, motorized trails, trails that would remain open for mechanized means of transportation, and trails and acres open to motorized over-snow uses by alternative. Table 63 compares the miles of open road, motorized trail, nonmotorized trail open to mechanized means of transportation, and trails and acres available to motorized over-snow uses that would be closed in each alternative.

**Table 62. Miles of existing open road; motorized trail; and trails open to mechanized means of transportation, and trails and acres of motorized over-snow uses that would *remain open* by alternative**

<b>Measurement Indicators</b>	<b>Alt. A</b>	<b>Alt. B</b>	<b>Alt. C</b>	<b>Alt. D</b>	<b>Alt. E</b>	<b>Alt F</b>
Miles of open road (year-round and seasonally)	2,074	2,061	2,074	2,040	2,074	2,066
Miles of motorized trails	850.1	850	850.1	790	850.1	850
Miles of nonmotorized trail outside of wilderness	1,190	1,190.1	1,131	1,250.1	1,190	1,190.2

Measurement Indicators	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E	Alt F
Miles of motorized over-snow trail	1,019	1,017	1,019	1,010	1,019	1,017
Acres of motorized over-snow use	854,704	830,300	829,355	775,510	854,704	846,658

**Table 63. Miles of existing open road; motorized trail; and trails open to mechanized means of transportation; and trails and acres of motorized over-snow uses that would be *closed* by alternative**

Measurement Indicators	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E	Alt. F
Miles of road closed	NA	13.0	0	34	0	8.0
Miles of motorized trails closed	NA	0.1	0	60.1	0	0.1
Miles of nonmotorized trail closed to mechanized transportation closed	NA	204	59	328	0	135
Miles of motorized over-snow trail closed	NA	2	0	9	0	2
Acres of motorized over-snow use closed	NA	24,404	25,349	79,194	0	8,046