



United States Department of Agriculture

# Final Environmental Impact Statement for the 2020 Land Management Plan

## Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forest

Volume 1: Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3 (part 1), Index, Literature



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# Final Environmental Impact Statement for the 2020 Land Management Plan for the Helena – Lewis and Clark National Forest

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**Abstract:** This final environmental impact statement contains the analysis of six alternatives developed for the programmatic management of approximately 2,846,606 acres administered by the Helena – Lewis and Clark National Forest. It documents the analysis of the preferred alternative, four action alternatives, and one no-action alternative. The Forest Service has identified alternative F as the preferred alternative.

All alternatives retain direction in the 2018 Forest Plan Amendments to Incorporate Habitat Management Direction for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Population, which was analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 3: Forest Plan Amendments to incorporate habitat management direction for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Population. That analysis is not repeated here but is summarized and referenced as needed.

The decision to approve the 2020 Land Management Plan for the Helena – Lewis and Clark National Forest is subject to the objection process identified in 36 CFR 219 Subpart B (219.50 to 219.62). Only those individuals and entities who have submitted substantive comments related to the Helena – Lewis and Clark National Forest plan revision during the opportunities provided for public comment will be eligible to file an objection (36 CFR 219.52(a)).

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Appendix I. Natural Range of Variation Analysis and Results

Appendix J. Climate and Carbon, Supplemental Information

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## Acronyms

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| AUM    | animal unit month  |
| BASI   | best available scientific information                    |
| BMP    | best management practice                                 |
| BE     | biological evaluation                                    |
| BO     | biological opinion                                       |
| BLM    | Bureau of Land Management                                |
| CFR    | Code of Federal Regulations                              |
| CWN    | conservation watershed network                           |
| DEIS   | draft environmental impact statement                     |
| EIS    | environmental impact statement                           |
| ESA    | Endangered Species Act                                   |
| FACTS  | forest activity tracking system database                 |
| FEIS   | final environmental impact statement                     |
| FIA    | forest inventory and analysis                            |
| FS     | Forest Service   |
| FSH    | Forest Service Handbook                                  |
| FSM    | Forest Service Manual                                    |
| GA     | geographic area  |
| GIS    | geographic information system                            |
| GYE    | greater Yellowstone ecosystem                            |
| HLC NF | Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forest                 |
| HUC    | hydrologic unit code                                     |
| INFISH | Inland Native Fish Strategy                              |
| IRA    | inventoried roadless area                                |
| LAU    | lynx analysis unit                                       |
| MMBF   | million board feet                                       |
| MTDEQ  | Montana Department of Environmental Quality              |
| MFWP   | Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks          |
| MTDNRC | Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation |
| NCDE   | Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem                    |
| NEPA   | National Environmental Policy Act                        |
| NF     | National Forest  |
| NFMA   | National Forest Management Act                           |

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| NFS      | National Forest System   |
| NRLMD    | Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction                       |
| NRV      | natural range of variation                                       |
| PACFISH  | Pacific Anadromous Fish Strategy                                 |
| PIBO     | PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinion                                |
| PCE      | primary constituent elements                                     |
| PTSQ     | projected timber sale quantity                                   |
| PWSQ     | projected wood sale quantity                                     |
| PVT      | potential vegetation type  |
| RFSS     | Regional Forester sensitive species                              |
| RMZ      | riparian management zone   |
| RNA      | research natural area  |
| ROD      | record of decision   |
| ROS      | recreational opportunity spectrum                                |
| RWA      | recommended wilderness area                                      |
| SCC      | species of conservation concern                                  |
| SIMPPLLE | Simulating Pattern and Process at Large Landscape Scales (model) |
| SIO      | scenic integrity objective                                       |
| SMZ      | streamside management zone                                       |
| TES      | threatened, endangered, and sensitive species                    |
| TMDL     | total maximum daily load   |
| USDA     | United States Department of Agriculture                          |
| USFWS    | United States Fish and Wildlife Service                          |
| VMAP     | vegetation map (geospatial database)                             |
| WCC      | watershed condition class  |
| WUI      | wildland urban interface   |
| WMU      | wildlife management unit   |
| WSA      | wilderness study area  |
| WSR      | wild and scenic river  |

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