

## Objection Issue Briefing Paper: General Access – Motorized and Mechanized Suitability

Date: Sept. 30, 2020.  
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**DRAFT:** For purposes of facilitating discussion for objection resolution process only.

### Summary of objection issues:

1. Multiple objectors assert mechanized use conflicts with wildlife use, other recreation uses such as horseback riding, or the designated area values in recommended wilderness, the Badger-Two Medicine Traditional Cultural District, the Elkhorns Wildlife Management Unit, or the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Other objectors are concerned plan components to make motorized or mechanized uses unsuitable are not supported by scientific information or an adequate analysis in the environmental impact statement.
2. Objectors assert the plan is not aligned with Secretary Purdue's June 2020 memorandum and the analysis is inadequate as the EIS does not include an alternative that increases opportunities for motorized recreation.

### Background information:

The suitability of motorized and mechanized recreation across various designated areas of the Forest is a key revision issue.

Based on the assessment, the need for change indicated that changes in existing recreation opportunity setting conditions were not warranted given site-specific travel management decision-making efforts across the Forest. However, the environmental impact statement evaluated a range of alternatives regarding whether motorized and mechanized uses would be compatible with desired conditions for recommended wilderness area management.

Given increasing population and popularity of motorized and mechanized recreation activities, the Responsible Official determined that those activities are unsuitable in recommended wilderness areas given the need to preserve the wilderness characteristics that make them suitable for Congressional designation. This includes the sense of remoteness and the opportunities for solitude. Many opportunities for motorized and mechanized recreation are available outside of recommended wilderness.

Based on public comment, Alternative F modifies the boundaries of several recommended wilderness areas to maintain existing recreation access. This includes reducing the area recommended for wilderness designation in the Big Snowies Wilderness Study Area and allocating a portion of the area as

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the Grandview Recreation Emphasis area to accommodate challenging mountain biking trails and popular snowmobile use.

The 2020 Revised Forest Plan guides future decision-making but does not authorize or prohibit any activities or public uses. However, the draft Record of Decision indicates travel management plans will be reviewed for consistency with the revised plan direction after plan approval. It also indicates that site-specific NEPA will be initiated within 3 years of plan approval to address any inconsistencies.

**Summary examples of proposed resolution(s) submitted by objectors:**

1. Change the suitability for motorized and mechanized uses in requested areas either to allow it or prohibit, depending on the objector.
2. Either make the site-specific decision to prohibit motorized and mechanized uses in recommended wilderness areas concurrent with the plan approval decision or complete site-specific NEPA decision making sooner than the 3 years indicated in the draft record of decision.
3. Requests to withdraw the decision and develop a plan that increases opportunities for motor vehicle access.

**Objectors/Interested Persons:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Obj/Interested Person</b>
Mike Anderson	The Wilderness Society	Interested Person
Zach Angstead	Montana Wilderness Association	Objector/Interested Person
Brian Ash		Interested Person
Lisa Bay		Objector
Greg Beardslee	Montana Mountain Bike Alliance	Objector
Jodi Bishop		Objector
Dean Blomquist	Golden Valley County	Interested Person
Clifford Bove		Objector
James Bradley		Objector and Interested Person
Stacey Bradley		Objector
Blake Busse	The Pew Charitable Trusts	Interested Person
Maryalice Chester		Objector
Al Christophersen	Elkhorn Restoration Committee	Objector
Phillip Clemens		Objector
Emily Cleveland		Objector
Eric Clewis	Montana Wildlife Federation	Objector



<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Obj/Interested Person</b>
Joe Cohenour	Elkhorn Working Group	Objector
Dave Colavito		Objector
Sarah Corse		Objector
CTVA Action Committee	Capital Trails Vehicle Association	Objector
Teresa Denney		Objector
Michele Dieterich		Objector
Joe Donohoe		Objector
Russ Ehnes	Great Falls Trail Bike Riders Association	Objector
Hilary Eisen	Winter Wildlands Alliance	Interested Person
Mark Good		Objector
Patrick Grace		Objector
Randy Gray		Objector
Janice Grosfield		Objector
Eric Grove	Montana High Divide Trail Collaborative	Objector
Jake Gunther		Objector
Peter Gynn		Objector
Hank Hudson		Objector
Gayle Joslin		Interested Person
Charley Karinen		Objector
Rick Kerr		Interested Person
Jocelyn Leroux (with Adam Rissien and Michael Garity)	Western Watersheds Project (with Wild Earth Guardians and Alliance for the Wild Rockies)	Objector and Interested Person
Stuart Lewin	Lewin Law Office	Interested Person
Sherri Lionberger	Last Chance Backcountry Horseman	Objector
Jeff Lonn		Objector
Ashton Loomis		Objector
Clint Loomis		Objector
Jennifer Loomis	Helena Public Schools/ UM Western Adjunct Professor	Objector
Jody Loomis		Objector



<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Obj/Interested Person</b>
Sarah Lundstrum	National Parks Conservation Association	Objector
David Mari		Interested Person
Peter Metcalf	Glacier Two Medicine Alliance	Objector and Interested Person
Zach Muse	Chief, Lincoln Rural Fire Department	Interested Person
Connie O'Conner		Objector
Denny Palmer		Interested Person
Harold Phillips		Objector
Jordan Reeves	The Wilderness Society	Objector
Bonnie Rice	The Sierra Club	Objector
Gail and John Richardson		Objector
Dave Sedlock		Objector
Michael Sedlock	Capital Trail Vehicle Association	Objector and Interested Person
David Sheets		Objector
Eric Sivers	Montana Bicycle Guild	Interested Person
Anthony Smith		Objector
Thomas Stark		Objector
Patti Steinmuller		Objector
Dan Struble		Objector
John Tubbs	Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation	Interested Person
Greg Warren		Objector
Gordon Whirry		Objector
Kerry White	Citizens for Balanced Use	Objector
Randy Williams		Objector
Zach Winestine		Objector

