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Comments:

The Montana National forest offers a wide array of outdoor activities that many of my fellow Montanans have been enjoying for many lifetimes. These outdoor activities are a privilege that many generations have been able to enjoy, and hopefully many more generations to come. I am an avid outdoorsman, who also enjoys motorized trails and snowmobiling, but unfortunately these proposed plans will have a negative impact on these activities that I and many other fellow Montanans greatly enjoy.

Unfortunately, the majority of the plans being proposed for our national forest are going to severely hinder these privileges. Putting land into wilderness protection usually comes with more negative effects than positive. An example would be the rock creek drainage on the southwest end of paradise valley. This area was once forest service land and open to motorized vehicles. This area once allowed motorized access to lakes and back country scenery during the summer, as well as some of the best snowmobiling in southwest Montana during the winter months. All of this was lost when the area was put under wilderness protection. Its our job to protect and care for the land, but to end access to the majority of the people who were actually using the land is unfair.

The proposal to deem the Crazy Mountain range a wilderness area and shut off all motorized access would be devastating to the local communities. This area is where many local families and friends have spent years enjoying the privilege of snowmobiling and riding on the legal trails throughout the mountain range. This area is also popular to back country skiers, which if snowmobile access is lost, will make it impossible for them to reach the high mountain peaks to ski from. To convert this mountain range to wilderness will result in shutting off all access to these people. The end result being a few ambitious and physically capable hikers being the only ones able to enjoy the area. The area would then be turn into an area similar to rock creek, which is hardly used by anyone because of the difficulty in access, and also over ran with predators "do to a lack in human presence and game management", to the point that the hunting opportunity of elk, deer and moose is all but lost. The benefits simply do not out weight the costs when considering the Crazy Mountains a wilderness area.

Its easy to see that within the last 20 or so years, Bozeman as well as many other destination areas in Montana have widely grown in popularity, as well as population. This has resulted in a massive shift in the out of state ideology being implemented into the area, as well as a increase in many more outdoor enthusiasts. Its great to see people admiring all that Montana has to offer and moving here to enjoy all the amenities. That doesn't mean that Montana needs to change to fit certain lifestyles or beliefs. The land needs to be properly managed, but at the same point still allow for as much publicly accessible land as possible.