



The following is a list of actions by our federal land management agencies that have severely restricted people's ability to access our public land. These actions have had a negative impact on recreation and the economy of this state. Everyone, except the very fit, is being systematically locked out of our public land. Businesses of this state have been closed as a result of many of these actions.

Table 2  
List of Current and Immediate Past Actions Affecting Multiple-Use Recreation

United States Court Of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit No. 01-35690 D.C. No. CV-96-00152-DWM	Helena NF Clancy-Unionville Plan
Every Resource Management Plans and Planning Actions (inter-agency) Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (inter-agency) ICBEMP (inter-agency) Northern Rockies Lynx Amendment (inter-agency)3-States OHV Strategy	Helena NF North Belts Travel Plan Helena NF North Divide Travel Plan Helena NF Noxious Weed Plan Helena NF South Belts Travel Plan Helena NF South Divide Travel Plan
B-DNF Continental Divide Trail near Jackson, MT	Helena NF Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
B-DNF Whitetail Pipestone Travel Plan	Humboldt Toiyabe NF Charleston-Jarbidge Road
B-DNF 2003 Forest Plan Update	Humboldt Toiyabe NF Spring Mountains NRA
B-DNF Analysis of the Management Situation	Kootenai NF Bristow Restoration Project
B-DNF Continental Divide trail near Feely	Kootenai NF McSwede Restoration Project
B-DNF Continental Divide trail near Whitetail-Pipestone	Kootenai NF Forest Plan Revisions
B-DNF Social Assessment	Lolo NF Forest Plan Revision
B-DNF Mussigbrod Post Fire Roads Management	L&CNF Judith Restoration Plan
B-DNF & BLM Flint Creek Watershed Project	L&CNF Rocky Mountain Front Travel Plan
BLM Blackleaf Project EIS	L&CNF Snowy Mountain Travel Plan
BLM Dillon Resource Management Plan	L&CNF Travel Plan update
BLM Headwater Resource Management Plan	Montana State Wolf Plan
BLM Arizona Strip Travel Plan	Montana State Trail Grant Program PEIS
BLM Bruneau Resource Area Travel Plan	Montana State Trail Plan PEIS
BLM Escalante Grand Staircase Monument	Montana FWP Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan
BLM Missouri Breaks Monument	Nez Perce NF Travel Plan Revisions
BLM Moab Resource Management Plans	NPS Salt Creek Road Closure
BLM National OHV Strategy	NPS Yellowstone Winter Plan (snowmobile closure)
BLM National Mountain Biking Strategic Action Plan	Payette NF Travel Plan Revisions
BLM San Rafael Travel Plan	Sawtooth NF Travel Plan Revisions
BLM Sleeping Giant Travel Plan	USFS National OHV Policy and Implementation
BLM Whitetail/Pipestone Rec. Management Strategy	USFS Forest Plan Amendments for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation
BLM Lake Havasu RMP	USFS National Strategic Plan 2003 Update
BLM Sustaining Working Landscapes Initiative	USFS Roadless
BLM Rocky Mountain Front Scenery Evaluation Project	USFS Roadless Rule II
BLM Kanab Resource Management Plan	USFS Roads Policy
Bitterroot NF Fire Salvage EIS	USFS National Land Management Plan Revisions
Bitterroot NF Post-fire Weed Mitigation EIS	USFWS Bull Trout Recovery Plan
Bitterroot NF Sapphire Divide Trail	USFWS Westslope Cutthroat Trout ESA
Bitterroot NF Forest Plan Revision	USFWS CMR National Wildlife Refuge Road Closures
Caribou NF Travel Plan	USFWS Sage Grouse Plan
Custer National Forest Travel Plan	
EPA Tenmile Creek Watershed Plan	
Flathead NF Robert Wedge Post Fire Project	
Flathead NF West Side Reservoir Post Fire Project	
Flathead NF Forest Plan Revisions	
Flathead NF Moose Post Fire Road Closures	
Flathead NF Spotted Bear Road Closures	
Gallatin NF 2002 Travel Plan Update	
Helena NF Blackfoot Travel Plan	
Helena NF Blackfoot Water Quality Plan	
Helena NF Cave Gulch Fire Salvage Sale	

My name is Kerry White and I live at 4000 Blackwood Road in Bozeman, Montana. I am a fourth generation Montanan and I still live on our ranch that my great grandfather pioneered in 1864. I have enjoyed recreating on the public lands around this great state all my life. I am married and have a daughter, 21 and 2 boys, 14 and 16. I fear that before too long we won't be able to enjoy the places that we recreate in. Many of the areas that I went to when I was younger are already closed to multiple use. Multiple use to me means that not only can the physically fit enjoy the land but also the elderly, handicapped, disabled and the very young. My wife and I have been taking all 3 of our children into the forest since they were born.

Your decision on the Resolution that you have before you today will surely affect my ability to enjoy Montana's public lands with my family. Over the last 30 years, much of our public land has been put into wilderness. These actions by our Federal land managers restrict the ability of a very large number of our state's citizens to enjoy much of our public land. I will give you an example. In October of 2002 a Social Assessment done by the Forest Service of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest was released. This document reported that the total number of forest visitors in the Forest Service Region 1 for the year 2000 was 13,200,000. The total number of wilderness visits was reported at 337,000 or 2.55%. Therefore, millions of visitors to public lands (nearly all at 97.45%) benefit from management for multiple use and benefit from motorized access and mechanized recreational opportunities.

Right now the Gallatin National Forest is in the process of creating a new travel management plan. I have brought a copy of one of the maps here today to illustrate the amount of public land that is proposed to be closed. I have also provided a smaller view of this map for each of the members on this committee. This map represents Alternative 7, winter use, and is the preferred alternative of the Forest Service. The orange color on the large map shows the land in the Gallatin National Forest that is already designated wilderness. This amounts to approximately 925,000 acres or about half of the 1.9 million acres in the Gallatin National Forest. The pink color on the map represents the amount of land that the Forest Service wants to close to snowmobiles. This amounts to 356,000 acres. The smaller maps that you have in front of you show these proposed closed areas as brown in color. The bright green on the large map shows areas that have seasonal closures to snowmobiles. The pale green on the large map is what we will have left for snowmobile use in the winter. I only brought the winter use map with me today because it gives you a very vivid picture of what is happening to our public land in the Gallatin.

Besides these winter restrictions being proposed, the Forest Service has also addressed summer use in the new Travel Plan. The summer use preferred alternative 7, if adopted, will close 70% of the motorized trails, 40% of the bicycle trails, and 34,000 acres to horse use. Additional seasonal closures are also proposed for horses. I believe that the people of this state deserve better.

In 1970 the Gallatin National Forest had 125,000 acres of wilderness and today that number has grown to over 900,000 acres. Much of the public land across this state has been closed to multiple use and active management over the last 20 to 30 years. Lumber mills have closed, recreational opportunities have diminished and grazing leases have been taken away. Fires are destroying our timber and wildlife habitat and communities all across the state are suffering. I have included a paper in my handout that shows numerous actions by our land managers that have impacted the people of this state in a negative way. As you look through the list you may find an action that you are familiar with. I believe that the people of this state want this to change and passing HJ18 would be a giant step in the right direction. I would urge this committee to pass this resolution and keep Montana the last best place that people of all abilities, from all over the world, can come to experience our public land. I thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and would be glad to answer any questions that anyone has. Thank you.

