



Photo: Harvey Locke

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## It's Summer Time

*But the Flathead National Forest Never Sleeps*

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*Here's a Leg Up on On-going Forest Planning*

August 18, 2016

Dear Greetings! :

We hope you've put on many trail miles this summer, and continue to do so as summer morphs into fall. Plenty of trail days remain. However, the Flathead Forest 'never sleeps' and takes continuous strides to complete its forest management plan revision before the end of 2016.

The Draft Revised Plan is now out for public review. Your comments are due on or before October 3rd. That may seem like the distant future, but you know how our friend Time flies.

*Headwaters Montana* has been working closely with the local chapter of the Montana Wilderness Association (MWA) and we are recommending a blend of the proposed alternatives. Here's what we recommend you ask the Flathead National Forest to propose in their Final Plan:

- Expand the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area northward along the Swan Range to protect Bunker and upper Sullivan Creeks. This area provides critical habitat for grizzlies, elk, and mountain goats. This is our opportunity to secure an area that citizens have advocated to be included in The Bob since the 1950s.

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**Thank YOU!**

- Implement the Whitefish Range Partnership Agreement. The Partnership was started by Headwaters Montana and the Agreement took a full 13 months to achieve. It's a good agreement and pulled the community together. Among other outcomes it supports the 83,000-acre Whitefish Range Wilderness.
- Prohibit snowmobiling and mountain biking in **recommended Wilderness**. We think that recommended Wilderness should be managed like designated Wilderness. When motorized and mechanized uses become established, the potential for Wilderness designation erodes very quickly.
- Protect the Greater Jewel Basin area. We would like the Forest Service to recommend Wilderness for the Greater Jewel Basin, and see the Swan Range managed to support existing quiet, non-motorized uses.
- Protect of the lower elevation, species-rich lands that are adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness. We would like the Sunset Ridge wildlife corridor and the bull trout spawning beds of Elk, Hemlock, Piper, and Fatty Creeks to be recommended for Wilderness.

**It's easy to comment.** Submit your comments via the USFS Web portal [here](#).

*Or write the Flathead Forest at:*

**Flathead National Forest  
Attn: Forest Plan Revision  
650 Wolfpack Way  
Kalispell, Montana 59901.**

Finally, please spread the word to your friends and family. Feel free to resend this e-newsletter. Forest Plan Revision will shape the management of this special place for the next 20+ years - and the Flathead Forest never sleeps!

Thank you for your support and participation.

Cheers!



*Dave Hadden, Director  
info@headwatersmontana.org 406-270-3184*



Berries of the Devil's Club (*Oplopanax horridus*) found in an ancient cottonwood forest near Fernie, BC (photo: D. Hadden)

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Headwaters Montana, Inc. | 4068370783 | [info@headwatersmontana.org](mailto:info@headwatersmontana.org) |  
PO Box 4310, 511 Lakewood Court, Whitefish, MT 59937

*Protecting the Water, Wildlife and Traditional Outdoor Heritage in the Crown of the Continent!*