

# **Outcome Focused Management Focus Group Report**

## **BLM Butte Field Office, Montana**

**2023**



**Tim Casey, PhD**

**Colorado Mesa University**

**Public Lands Recreational Research Partnership Report #22**

**A collaboration between the Bureau of Land Management,  
University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and Colorado Mesa University**

## Contents

Table of Figures.....	8
Acknowledgements.....	10
Introduction .....	11
Characteristics of the BLM Butte Field Office.....	12
Methodology.....	13
Demographics .....	16
Community Characteristics.....	19
Maps and Locations of Special Places.....	20
Recreational Outcomes.....	23
Negative Experiences.....	25
Desired Outcomes – Benefits of Recreation.....	27
Personal Beneficial Outcomes from Recreation.....	30
Household Beneficial Outcomes from Recreation .....	31
Community and Environmental Beneficial Outcomes from Recreation .....	32
Activities.....	34
Setting Characteristics of the Landscape.....	35
Operational Setting Characteristics .....	36
Social Setting Characteristics .....	37
Physical Setting Characteristics .....	39
Management.....	40
Information and Services .....	42
Barriers to Outdoor Recreation in the Butte FO.....	44
Conclusions .....	45
Appendix 1: Focus Group Handout/Questions.....	50
Appendix 2: Butte Field Office 2023 Coded Focus Group Comments.....	63
Management.....	63
Management - Boundaries.....	63
Management – Interagency Cooperation .....	64
Management - Staffing.....	66

Management - Safety .....	67
Management – Non-recreation resources.....	68
Management – Non-recreation resources – Fire Management .....	68
Management – Non-recreation resources – Noxious Weeds .....	68
Management – Non-recreation resources – Grazing Livestock and Ranching.....	69
Management – Non-recreation Resources – Oil, Gas and Mining .....	69
Management - Public .....	69
Management- Public- Transparency and Participation in Planning Process .....	69
Management – Public – Public Relations .....	70
Management – Public - Equality.....	70
Management – Multi -use.....	71
Management - Infrastructure.....	73
Management - Maintenance.....	74
Management - Recreation .....	75
Management – Recreation – Diversity of Recreation .....	75
Management – Travel Management.....	76
Management – Travel Management - Trails .....	78
Management – Travel management – Trails – Diversity of Trails .....	81
Management – Travel Management - Access.....	82
Management - Information.....	87
Management – Information – Sources of Information .....	87
Management – Information - Education.....	89
Management – Information - Communications.....	90
Management – Law Enforcement.....	91
Local Community and Partnerships.....	93
Local Community and Partnerships – Community Character - Housing .....	94
Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Familiarity/Relationship with Landscape.....	94
Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Lack of Development .....	94

Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Seasons/Seasonal Activity .....	94
Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics - Heritage.....	95
Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Friendly Local Population	95
Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Economics – Affordable, Jobs, Tourism.....	95
Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Quiet and Peaceful .....	96
Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristic - Ranching.....	96
Local Community Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Open Space.....	96
Local Community Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Public support/stewardship or public lands .....	97
Local Community Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Landscape Qualities.....	97
Local Community Partnerships – Community Characteristics - Freedom .....	98
Local Community Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Access/Proximity to Public Lands .....	99
Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Recreation Opportunities .....	101
Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Low Population/Uncrowded .....	103
Local Community and Partnerships – Private Property.....	104
Concerns/Problems – Negative Comments .....	105
Concern/Problem – Inexperience of New Visitors .....	111
Concern/Problem – Climate Change and Drought.....	112
Concern/Problem - Noise.....	112
Concern/Problem - Development .....	112
Concern/Problem – Clash between user types or locals vs. visitors .....	113
Concern/Problems – Population Growth .....	113
Concern/Problem - COVID.....	113
Concern/Problem - Vandalism .....	114
Concern/Problem – Bad Behavior by Visitors .....	114
Concern/Problem – Lack of Respect for land and/or people .....	116

Location Specific comments.....	116
Location specific comment - Sleeping Giant/Missouri River SRMA .....	117
Location specific comment – Copper City .....	117
Location Specific Comment – BLM Lands in FO other than SRMAs .....	118
Location Specific Comment – Humbug Spires SRMA .....	118
Location Specific Comment – Upper Big Hole SRMA .....	118
Location Specific Comment – Sheep Mountain SRMA.....	118
Location Specific Comment – White River area .....	119
Location Specific Comment – Scratch Gravel SRMA.....	119
Location Specific Comment – Pipestone SRMA.....	120
Benefits – Community and Environmental.....	121
Benefits – Community and Environmental - Increased desirability of place to live .....	121
Benefits – Community and Environmental – Cultural Heritage .....	122
Benefits – Community and Environmental – Tourism revenue for local communities.....	122
Benefits – Household and Relational – Sharing the Landscape with Others.....	122
Benefits – Household and Relational – Alternative entertainment for youth.....	122
Benefits – Household and Relational – Time with Friends .....	122
Benefits – Household and Relational – Teach our Children about the Outdoors and Recreation .....	123
Benefits – Household and Relational – Living a more outdoor oriented life.....	123
Benefits – Household and Relational – Family activity/time together .....	123
Benefits - Personal .....	124
Benefits – Personal – Harvest from the Land (Hunting, Fishing, berries, etc.).....	125
Benefits – Personal – Memories – past experiences.....	125
Benefits – Personal – Explore and Discover Places .....	125
Benefits – Personal – Test Skills .....	126
Benefits – Personal - Resilience.....	126
Benefits – Personal – Reduces Stress .....	126
Benefits – Personal – Connection to Nature .....	127
Benefits – Personal – Tranquil Escape.....	127

Benefits – Personal – Escape from urban life.....	127
Benefits – Personal – Health (Physical and Mental).....	127
Settings - Operational.....	128
Settings – Operational - Camping.....	129
Settings – Operational – Regulations and Fees.....	130
Settings – Operational - Bathrooms.....	133
Settings – Operational - Signage.....	134
Settings – Operational - Pollution.....	136
Settings – Operational – Sanitation and Trash.....	136
Settings - Social.....	138
Settings – Social – Group Size.....	138
Settings – Social - Overuse.....	138
Settings – Social – Crowding Issues.....	139
Settings – Social - Solitude.....	141
Settings – Physical and Biological.....	142
Settings – Physical and Biological - Remoteness.....	142
Settings – Physical and Biological – Geological Resources.....	142
Settings – Physical and Biological - Naturalness.....	142
Settings – Physical and Biological – Scenic beauty/views.....	143
Settings – Physical and Biological – Protection of the Resources/Land.....	144
Settings – Physical and Biological – Wild character of the land.....	144
Settings – Physical and Biological – Damage to the Resources/Land.....	145
Settings – Physical and Biological - Wildlife.....	146
Settings – Physical and Biological - Conservation.....	147
Settings – Physical and Biological – Ecological Diversity.....	147
Settings – Physical and Biological – Habitat - Ecosystem.....	147
Activity Specific Comments.....	148
Services.....	153
Services – Missing Services.....	153

Barriers to Recreation .....	155
Appendix 3: Comments by focus group question.....	156

# Table of Figures

Figure 1: Wise River SRMA - BLM Butte Field Office .....	11
Figure 2: BLM Butte Field Office map .....	12
Figure 3: Focus Group meeting - Helena, MT 6/2023 .....	13
Figure 4: Focus Group schedule and participation .....	14
Figure 5: Zip codes of participants.....	17
Figure 6: Participant affiliation with lands in Butte FO.....	18
Figure 7: Length of participant affiliation with landscape.....	18
Figure 8: Mainstreet - Townsend, MT - a gateway community to the BLM public lands in the area .....	19
Figure 9: Valued characteristics of local community.....	20
Figure 10: SRMA map of Butte FO .....	21
Figure 11: Regions/SRMAs selected by participants. ....	22
Figure 12: Location-specific comment count.....	22
Figure 13: Location-specific comment code map.....	23
Figure 14: BLM managed public lands outside Bozeman, MT 2023.....	24
Figure 15: Special qualities of BLM lands in area .....	25
Figure 16: Items that would diminish specialness of landscape. ....	26
Figure 17: Negative comments code map .....	27
Figure 18: Benefits comment count .....	28
Figure 19: Benefits comment code map.....	29
Figure 20: Access to Recreational Benefits - Central MT 2023.....	30
Figure 21: Personal Benefits - participant preferences .....	31
Figure 22: Relational and Household Benefits - participant preferences .....	32
Figure 23: Community and Environmental Benefits - participant preferences .....	33
Figure 24: Activities - participant preferences.....	34
Figure 25: Setting Characteristics .....	35
Figure 26: Operational setting characteristics comment count.....	36
Figure 27: Recreation Infrastructure at Copper City Trailhead - Butte FO 2023.....	37
Figure 28: Social setting characteristics comment count.....	37
Figure 29: Perceived change in use over last 5 years .....	38
Figure 30: Effects of perceived change in se over the last 5 years.....	39
Figure 31- Physical Setting Characteristics by comment theme .....	39
Figure 32: An example of partnerships that leverage BLM resources to provide recreational opportunities .....	40
Figure 33: Management comment count.....	41
Figure 34: Management comment code map .....	41



Figure 35: Sources of Information - participant selections ..... 42  
Figure 36 -Diversity of Information at Kiosk for Coper City Trails recreation area ..... 43  
Figure 38: Services used to support recreation - participant selections ..... 44  
Figure 39: Barriers to recreation in the Butte Field Office ..... 45

# Acknowledgements

## **Produced by the Public Land Recreation Research Partnership**

The Public Land Recreation Research Partnership (PLRRP) is a national consortium of researchers that focuses on studying recreation issues associated with Bureau of Land Management public lands. Dr. Peter J. Fix, University of Alaska Fairbanks, is the Principal Investigator and lead for survey research; Dr. T. Timothy Casey, Colorado Mesa University, is project CO-PI and lead on focus group research and principal author on this report. The PLRRP collaborates with investigators at universities throughout the western United States to conduct research at specific locations. Dr. Kevin Kelley, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Colorado Mesa University, was also vital to the focus group data collection in the Summer of 2023. This report would not have been possible without his help. The research team would also like to thank Brad Colins, recreation planner, and the entire BLM Butte Field Office for all their efforts to assist in this data collection and to introduce us to the landscape and the communities of central Montana. Brad was present at every focus group meeting. Special thanks also to BLM District Manager, Katie Stephens, who took an active interest in the research and attended several meetings as well.

Funding for the PLRRP was provided by the USDI Bureau of Land Management through assistance agreement L21AC103317, and the USDA Hatch Multi-state project *NE 1962 Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Other Green Environments: Understanding Human and Community Benefits and Mechanisms*.

Suggested Citation for this report: Casey, T. T. & Fix, P. J. (2024). BLM Butte Montana Field Office Outcomes-Focused Management (OFM) Recreation Focus Group Study, 2024. Project report for the BLM Butte Field Office. BLM PLRRP Report #22. Grand Junction, Colorado: Colorado Mesa University, Natural Resource Center, Department of Social and Behavioral Science.

The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government.

## **Paperwork Reduction Act Statement and Burden Estimate Statement**

- An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number and expiration date. The OMB control number for this focus group is 1004-0217 (expiration date: 04/30/2025).
- Public reporting for these focus groups was estimated to average 90 minutes per response.

Figure 1: Wise River SRMA - BLM Butte Field Office



## Introduction

In 2022-23, the Public Lands Recreation Research Partnership<sup>1</sup> (PLRRP) was asked to conduct research on the outdoor recreation taking place in the public lands managed by the BLM Butte Montana Field Office (referred to as the **Butte FO** in this report) and its impacts on surrounding landscapes and communities. This data will be used in the planning process to revise a resource management plan for the field office. The design called for a combination of on-site and take-home visitor surveys administered on the landscape during multiple recreation seasons and at sites across the entire landscape. These surveys were designed and administered by the UAF partners in PLRRP. Additionally, recreation focus groups were held on-line and in communities adjacent to the monument during the summer of 2023. These

---

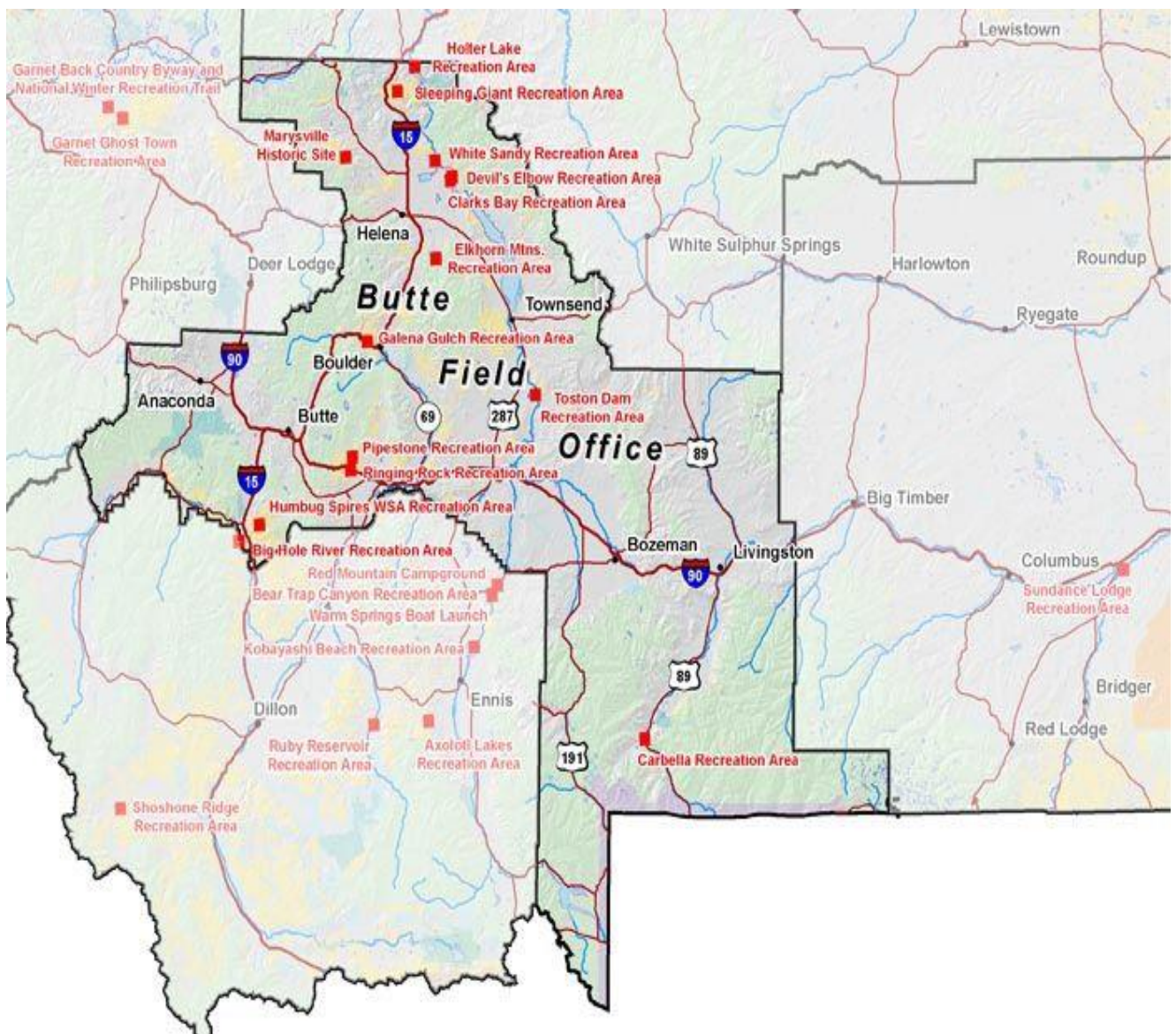
<sup>1</sup> A consortium of researchers from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF), Colorado Mesa University (CMU), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Office. Principal investigators are Dr. Peter Fix (UAF), Dr. Tim Casey (CMU) and BLM office project lead, Matt Blocker. Dr. Kevin Kelley and Miss Rachel Garcia are also vital members of the PLRRP team.

focus groups were designed and administered by the CMU partners in PLRRP. The following report represents the quantitative and qualitative data collected during those focus groups. A separate report summarizes the data gathered from the survey study.

## Characteristics of the BLM Butte Field Office

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for managing over 300,000 acres of federal public land in the Butte FO. This landscape offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities in the rolling hills, grasslands, mountains, gold medal streams, and the headwaters of the Missouri River across eight counties in central Montana.

Figure 2: BLM Butte Field Office map



## Methodology

The mixed methodology focus group was determined to be the appropriate approach to establish the recreation experience baseline. The mixed methodology focus group uses audience handouts to record individual responses anonymously in addition to engaging participants in open dialogue. This methodology captures both a complete set of responses from each participant using the handouts with maps as well as documenting a rich set of notes from the group dialogue that gives context and depth to the handout responses to set questions. Either approach used alone would leave an incomplete picture of the broad and deep relationships people have with this landscape.

The design of the focus group for data collection entailed a series of discussion questions intended to engage participants in open dialogue about their preferences, interests, and expectations so responses could be captured in their own words, followed by a list of choices that represented a spectrum of possible responses to the discussion questions that could be responded to via anonymous handouts given to every participant and collected at the end of the focus group so their responses can be recorded for a larger database. The open dialogue comments were documented with audio recording equipment as well as by consortium researchers taking notes.

*Figure 3: Focus Group meeting - Helena, MT 6/2023*



The focus group script covered all the major elements needed in BLM planning for recreation on public lands: preferences for outcomes and experiences, setting characteristics, activities, and the services needed to support the recreation experience. Additional questions encouraged participants to express their preferences for management practices including crowding, barriers to

recreation in the area, and the impact of the BLM Butte FO's recreational opportunities on local communities and their quality-of-life. The focus group study included 23 questions, nine were open-ended, fourteen had prepared responses for audience polling recorded on the handouts<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 1 for a copy of the handout provided each participant that includes the wording of every question asked.

Participants were encouraged to respond to the open-ended questions out loud in the focus group conversation (comments were recorded) or to write down their comments on the handout to be included in the report.<sup>3</sup> All questions with prepared responses included the option of “other” so participants weren’t constrained by the prepared responses. Of the prepared response questions, one included a mapping exercise where participants noted an area that was of particular interest to them and many of the questions that followed that were associated with their selection. The number of questions included in the script was tailored to allow for a 90-minute focus group.

A total of nine focus groups were conducted, one on-line in the late spring of 2023 and 8 in-person focus groups on June 2023. A total of 79 participants for the 9 meetings is considered a good turnout for a focus group study and should provide a diversity of ideas in the data.

The participants were allowed to remain anonymous; although their responses were tracked and collated using the handouts they filled out and turned in. Their participation in the study and on every question was voluntary and they were reminded that they were free to participate or not as they wished, but that if they did speak up or write something down, that was taken as their consent to share that information in the study. Some basic demographic information was collected at the beginning of each session. Participants were asked to provide home zip codes used to identify how representative this study was of the overall population. Figure 4 below indicates the dates, locations, and number of participants for each focus group.

*Figure 4: Focus Group schedule and participation.*

Date	Time	Location	Number of Participants
June 1, 2023	10 am	Digital – On-line	3
June 5, 2023	10 am	Butte, MT	2
June 5, 2023	7 pm	Butte, MT	5
June 6, 2023	10 am	Wise River, MT	4
June 6, 2023	7 pm	Helena, MT	11
June 7, 2023	10 am	Helena, MT	10

---

<sup>3</sup> See Appendix 2 for all written and verbal responses sorted by topic and coded area, or Appendix 3 for each comment recorded by question.

June 7, 2023	7 pm	Great Falls, MT	10
June 8, 2023	10 am	Townsend, MT	2
June 8, 2023	7 pm	Bozeman, MT	32
<b>Total</b>			<b>79</b>

Outreach to populate the focus groups included:

- Invitations shared with area board and committees (i.e., County governments, city governments, local resource management boards, etc.),
- Direct outreach to partners and key stakeholders (local activity-oriented groups),
- Press releases in local newspapers.
- Flyers – put up at trailheads, community centers, bike and outdoor shops, post offices, etc.
- A solid effort was made by the BLM and PLRRP to reach out to diverse stakeholder groups to encourage participation.
- A well-developed network of trust was evident between the BLM and local communities that was helpful both in getting people to the meetings and in their willingness to engage in the process because they trusted the BLM would listen to them.

The methodology of audience polling using handouts to record responses allows each participant the opportunity to weigh in on every area of the research. This is important to avoid a wide variety of social setting dynamics that arise in traditional focus group settings, such as only hearing from extroverted participants who dominate a conversation. The polling also minimizes the undue influence of peer settings in small communities. If an individual is worried about the repercussions of their responses mentioned aloud in a focus group within their community, they are not likely to respond, or not as accurately. However, if they can anonymously record their preferences, they may feel more liberated to express their true opinion. The audience polling using written responses on handouts preserves participants’ anonymity while being able to link all their answers together for the purposes of analysis. In traditional focus groups, one might be able to link comments and preferences back to a particular focus group, but unless the group was small and homogenous, it would be difficult to determine preferences for groups, or how those preferences might interact with other preferences (i.e., if a person is seeking solitude, do they choose particular activities or settings to achieve that outcome?). Traditionally, a survey was needed to link these variables; however, a survey often misses the nuance of the dialogue. The advantage of using audience polling and open-ended questions in a focus group setting is that participants are allowed to clarify what they mean when they select certain responses.

It is important to note the limitations of using this data. Because the sampling of participants was not random, it would be difficult to suggest this analysis is generalizable to the preferences of the entire population that might be interested in the area, and no attempt to do so is made here. However, an effort was made to hear from a broad sample of groups who have a connection to the landscape including both locals and visitors that were willing to spend 90 minutes participating in the conversation.

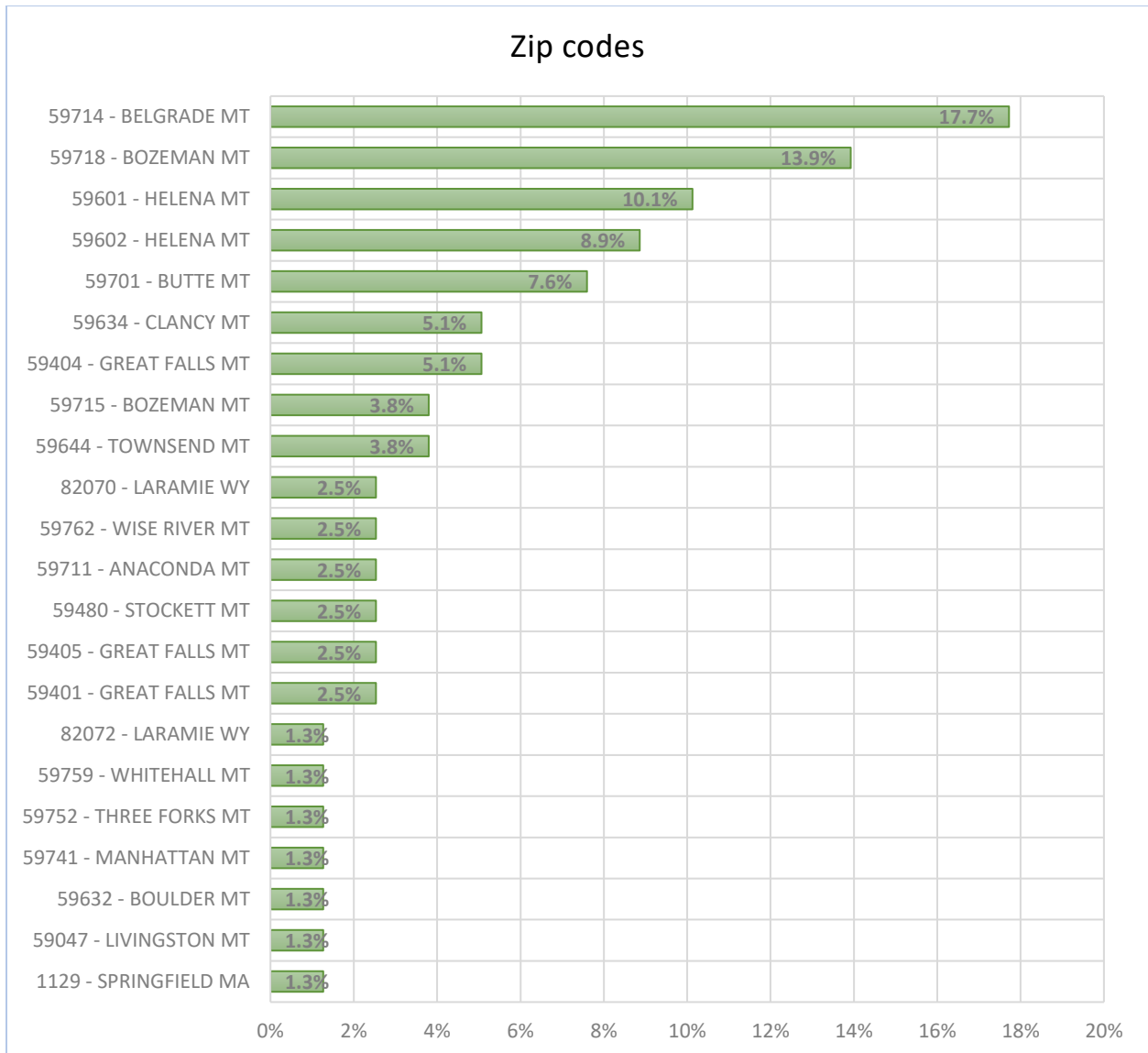
In this report, the quantitative data collected in the nine prepared response questions is displayed in a series of bar graphs indicating the percentage of participants selecting each response. In many questions they were asked to choose their top 5 or 3 responses, while other questions simply asked for a single response. The open-ended question responses were recorded on flip charts during the meeting as well as over 1000 written comments offered by participants on the handouts including some clarifying comments for the quantitative set response questions. These responses were coded by management theme and the maps of those coded comments are presented in the body of this report. Appendix 2 has each comment broken out by coded theme and organized into management classification, and Appendix 3 displays all responses to each open-ended question. Some comments were coded for multiple themes because the participant addressed several themes in the single comment. Comments that were tied to a specific location are also categorized by location in Appendix 2. The goal of the research was to collect a broad diversity of perspectives on the management of recreation on the landscape and to organize that data into useful themes that relate to the BLM planning process as outlined in the BLM Handbook for Planning for Recreation and Visitors Services (H-8320-1) which became the official planning document for all BLM recreation management in August 2014.

## Demographics

The seventy-nine participants in this focus group study were primarily from communities surrounding the area of central Montana managed by the BLM Butte FO as indicated by Figure 5 below. One of the benefits of conducting focus groups in the communities surrounding the landscape is the ability to have a longer conversation with local residents about the impact of outdoor recreation on their communities. Combined with the outcomes focused management survey research done in the field office at the time, these studies provide a rich picture of the public's preferences for outdoor recreation in the area. For a better understanding of the recreation management challenges facing the Butte FO, it will be important to balance this information with the results of the recreation survey conducted by University of Alaska, Fairbanks.



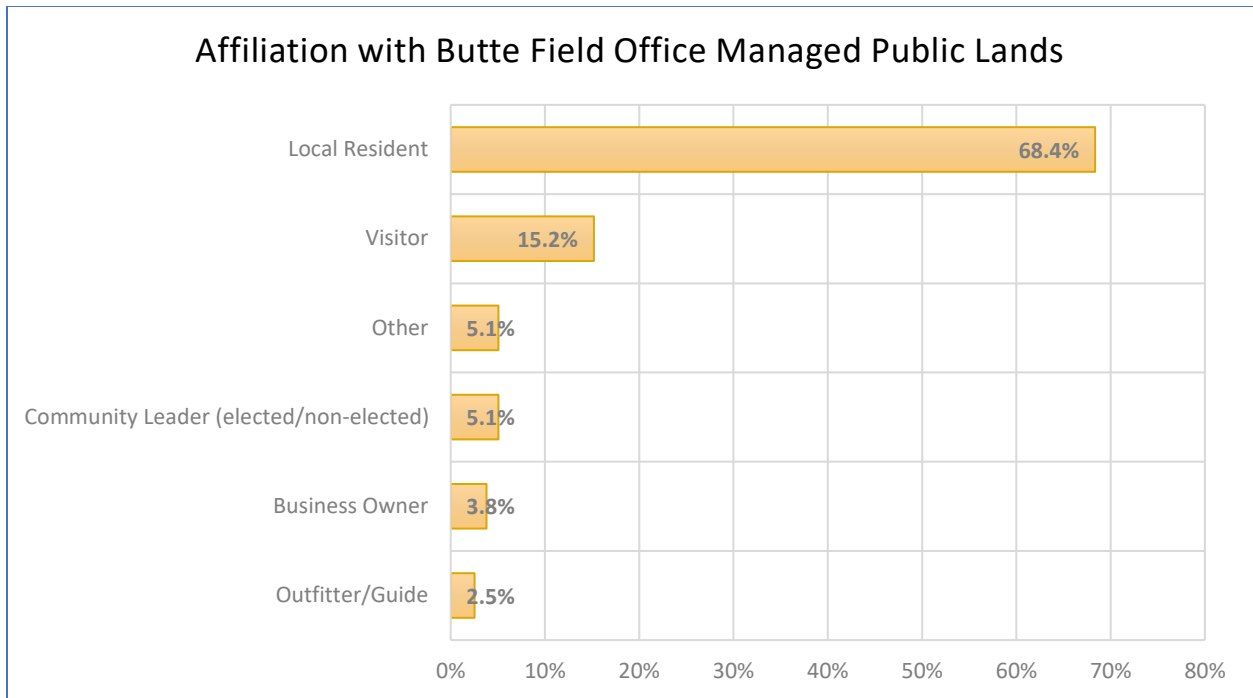
Figure 5: Zip codes of participants



The participants were asked to identify their primary affiliation with the landscape. Although they might wear many hats, they were encouraged to adopt only one of those roles and use it as a lens to answer the rest of the questions<sup>4</sup>. As indicated in Figure 6 below, more than half the participants selected “local resident” by affiliation.

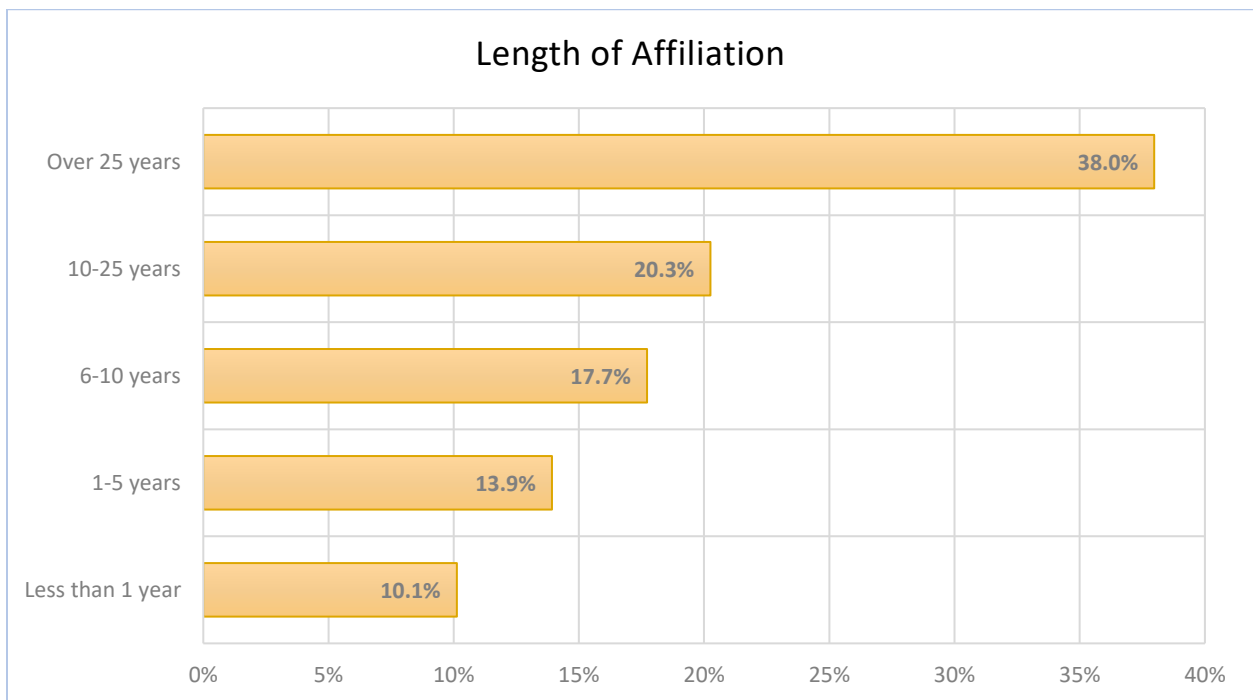
<sup>4</sup> If a choice in any question was not selected by any participant, they were left off the graphs in this report.

Figure 6: Participant affiliation with lands in Butte FO



Next participants were asked to indicate the length of their affiliation with the lands managed by the BLM in the field office and surrounding area. A majority of the participants in this study indicated at least a 10-year relationship with the landscape.

Figure 7: Length of participant affiliation with landscape



## Community Characteristics

Participants were asked to describe the unique characteristics of the gateway communities adjacent to the BLM managed lands in the Butte FO, and how public lands affect those characteristics of the communities that contribute to their quality of life. A complete set of spoken and written comments to these and other open-ended questions is in Appendix 3 below. Additionally, each of these comments was coded to identify the key themes that emerged regarding

these questions about community identity and values as well as other open ended questions about desired outcomes, reasons the landscape is special, what might diminish the specialness of the landscape, and what the participants thought ought to be management priorities for BLM in the area, and what improvements to management could



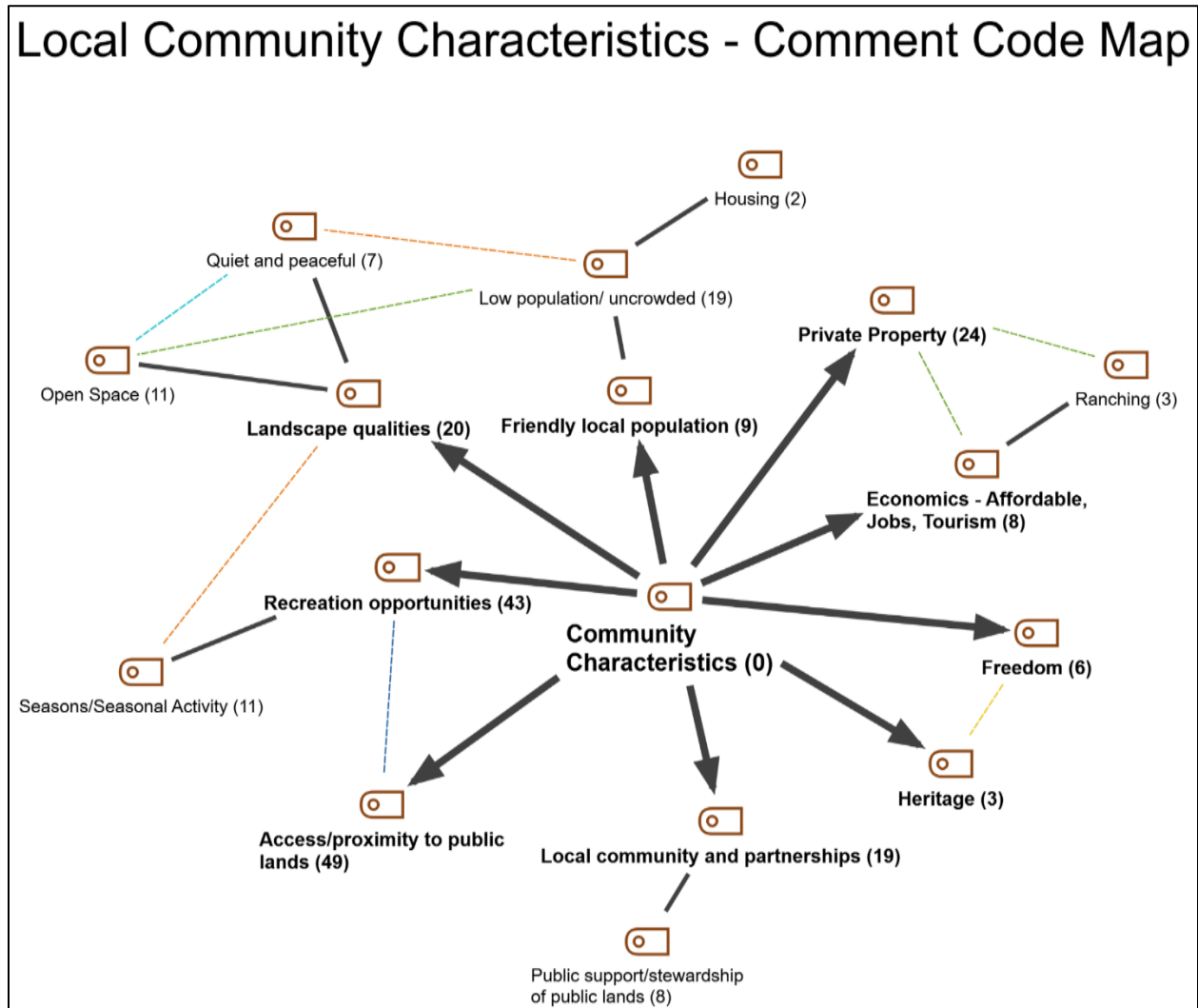
Figure 8: Mainstreet - Townsend, MT - a gateway community to the BLM public lands in the area

be made to preserve the specialness of the landscape and improve the recreational experiences and outcomes that the landscape supports. Although the list of comments in Appendix 3 preserves the responses to individual questions, the coded responses listed in Appendix 2 identify themes that emerged regardless of what question they were responding to. These themes for the desired characteristics in the local community were grouped into several categories. The relationships between these codes are displayed in the “comment code maps” throughout the report. The codes are displayed with the number of individual comments connected to each code in the comment maps.

The first theme mapped in Figure 9 on the next page is the comments related to the desired characteristics that define the gateway communities. Several of these comments refer to the friendliness of the people in the area (either residents or visitors) and their support of stewardship on public lands. This creates real opportunities to engage local communities in partnerships to achieve management objectives. Other comments identify the importance of

the landscape and its unique qualities set in quiet, open spaces that are close to their communities and accessible. Many of the participants identified recreational opportunities on public lands in the area as central to their quality of life.

Figure 9: Valued characteristics of local community.



## Maps and Locations of Special Places

For the purposes of planning and gathering location specific data, the management area was divided into eleven recreational planning zones and the participants were asked to identify the one they wanted to offer more site-specific information about. Several participants found it difficult to choose just one zone to comment on and preferred to direct their comments to the entire monument or a combination of several of the zones. The zones are highlighted in the maps in Figure 10, and the breakdown of participant selections is captured in the graph in figure 11. A majority of participants selected the Pipestone SRMA known for its off-highway

vehicle (OHV) recreation opportunities. Almost all participants in the last (and largest) focus group in Bozeman attended because they mistakenly thought it was a meeting about shutting down OHV access and activity in the Pipestone area. After being reassured that was not the intent of the meeting, but rather it was to gather their ideas on recreation in the area, they willingly participated in the rest of the focus group. Although many of the focus group participants identified Pipestone as their area of principle interest, the other participants in the study offered insight into recreation at every major SRMA in the field office.

Figure 10: SRMA map of Butte FO

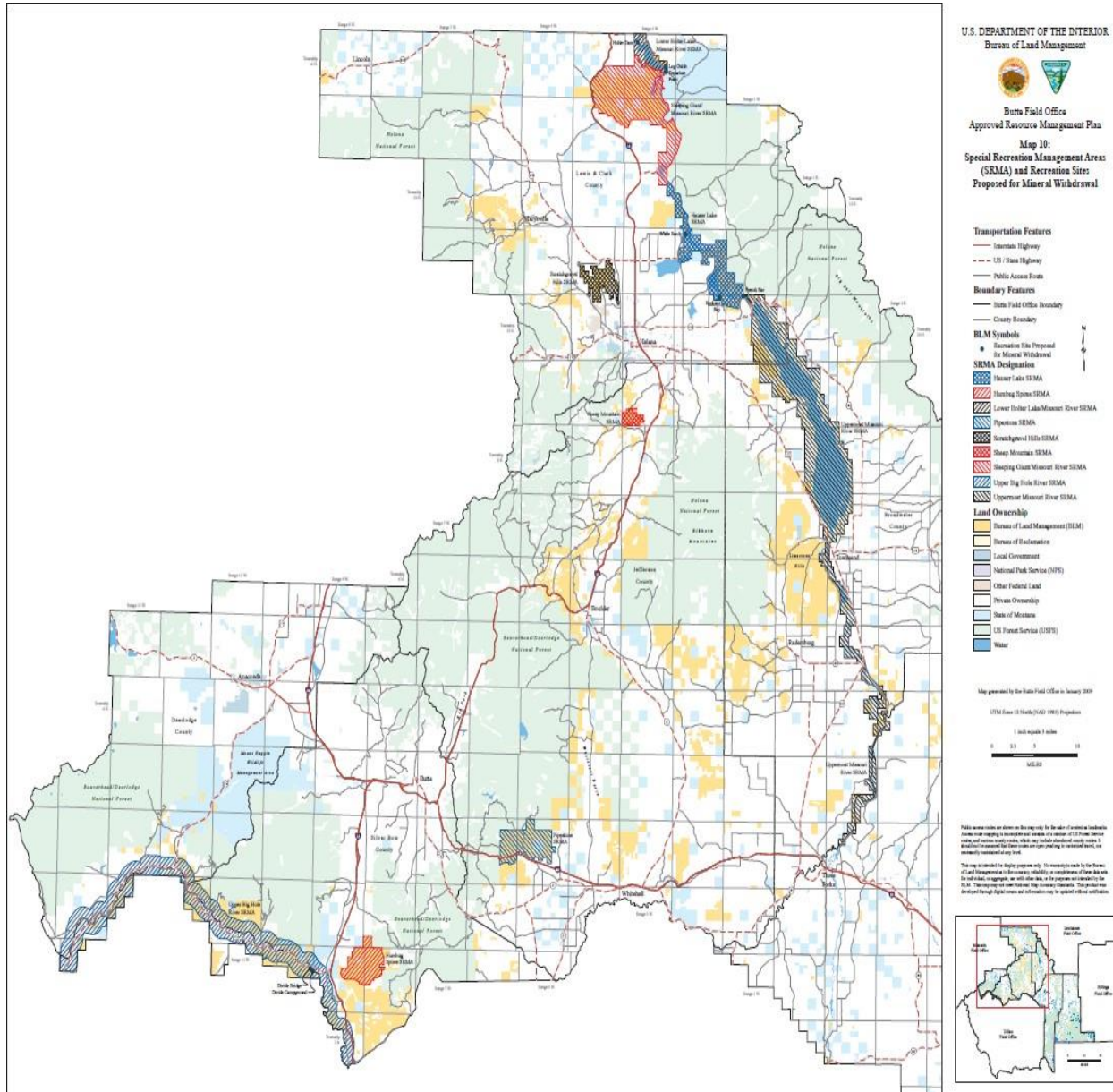
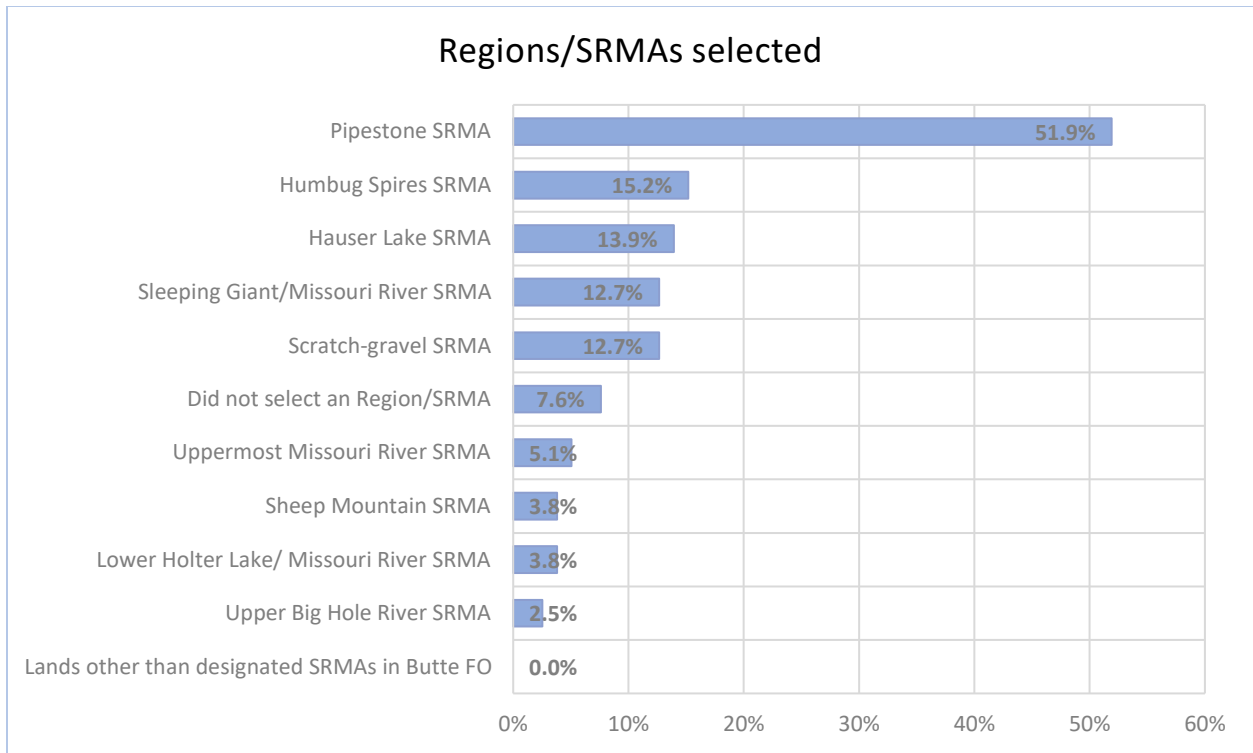


Figure 11: Regions/SRMAs selected by participants.



Appendix 2 identifies the comments that were specific to a named location so that managers and recreation planners can turn to those specific comments when writing the plan for those SRMAs and other designated areas. Again, the most comments were received about Pipestone SRMA, but there are also many comments for the Missouri River SRMAs, Copper City Mountain Bike complex, and Sheep Mountain SRMA as well as a few comments on other locations. The count of comments is displayed in Figure 12 below and mapped in Figure 13.

Figure 12: Location-specific comment count

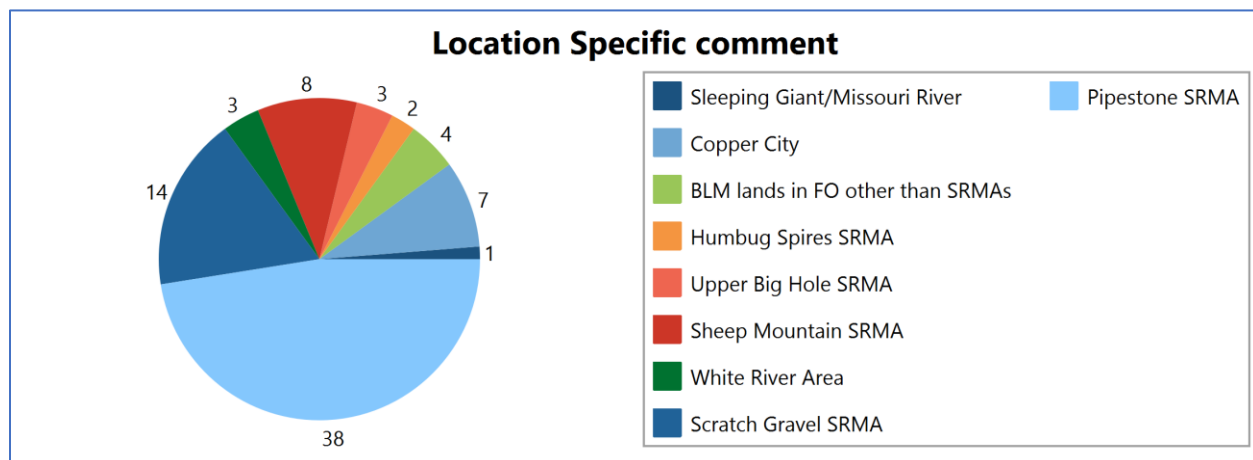
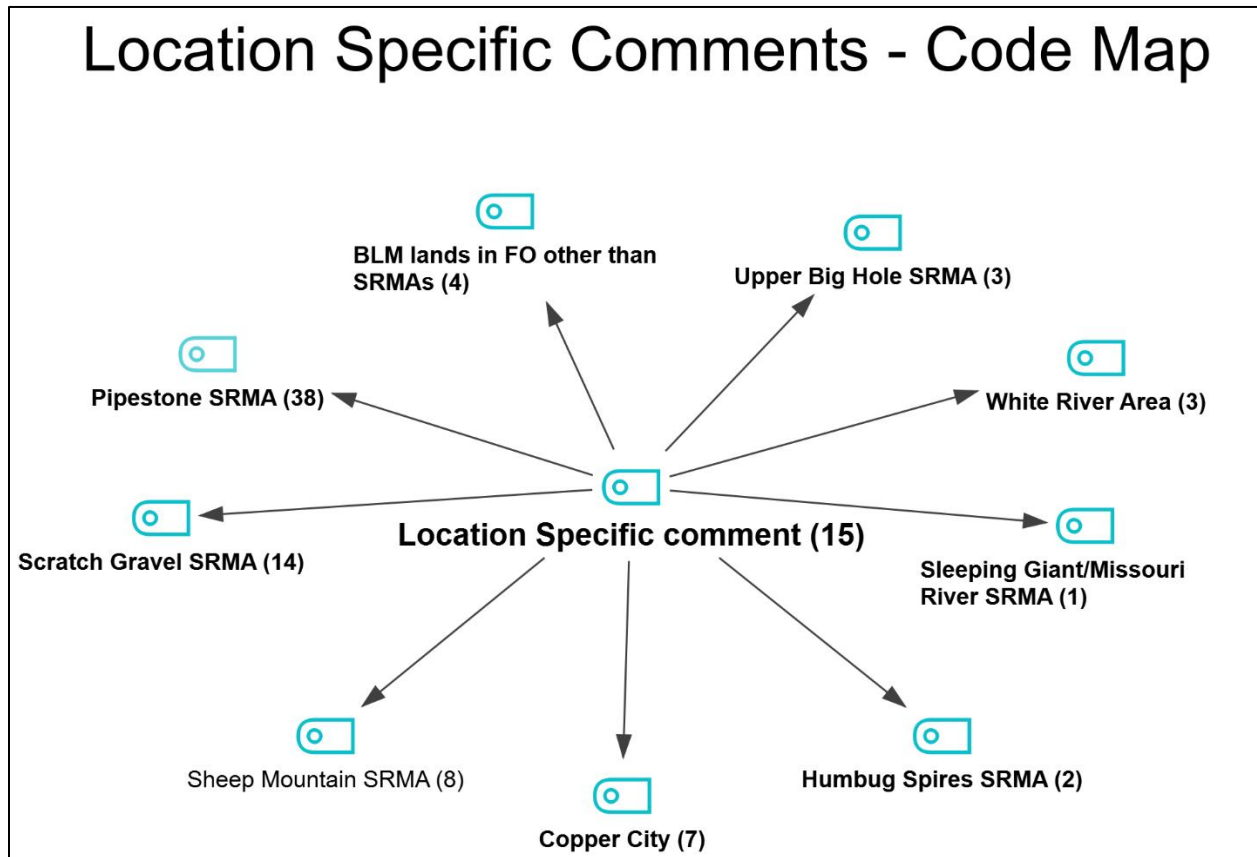


Figure 13: Location-specific comment code map



## Recreational Outcomes

Once participants identified locations on the landscape they wanted to focus on, they were asked a series of questions about their recreational preferences in the landscape. The Outcomes-Focused Management (OFM) approach, adopted nationally by the BLM in its recreation planning guide<sup>5</sup>, requires land managers to consider not only the recreational activities taking place on the land, but more importantly to also consider the goals (outcomes) that visitors and community members have for recreation in the landscape. These beneficial outcomes can be experienced by the individual recreating on public lands (personal benefits), their friends and family (relational and household benefits) and the broader community they live in and the landscape they are part of (community and environmental benefits). All these benefits are important outcomes of the recreational experience on public lands and can be affected by management actions and decisions of the BLM as they adjust recreational setting characteristics and engage local communities in the delivery of services and information.

<sup>5</sup> H-8320-1 – Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services. Issued in August of 2014.



Figure 14: BLM managed public lands outside Bozeman, MT 2023

Initially, the participants of the focus groups were asked to talk about what makes particular lands in the Butte FO that they have identified “special” places from their perspective. Participants were given a list

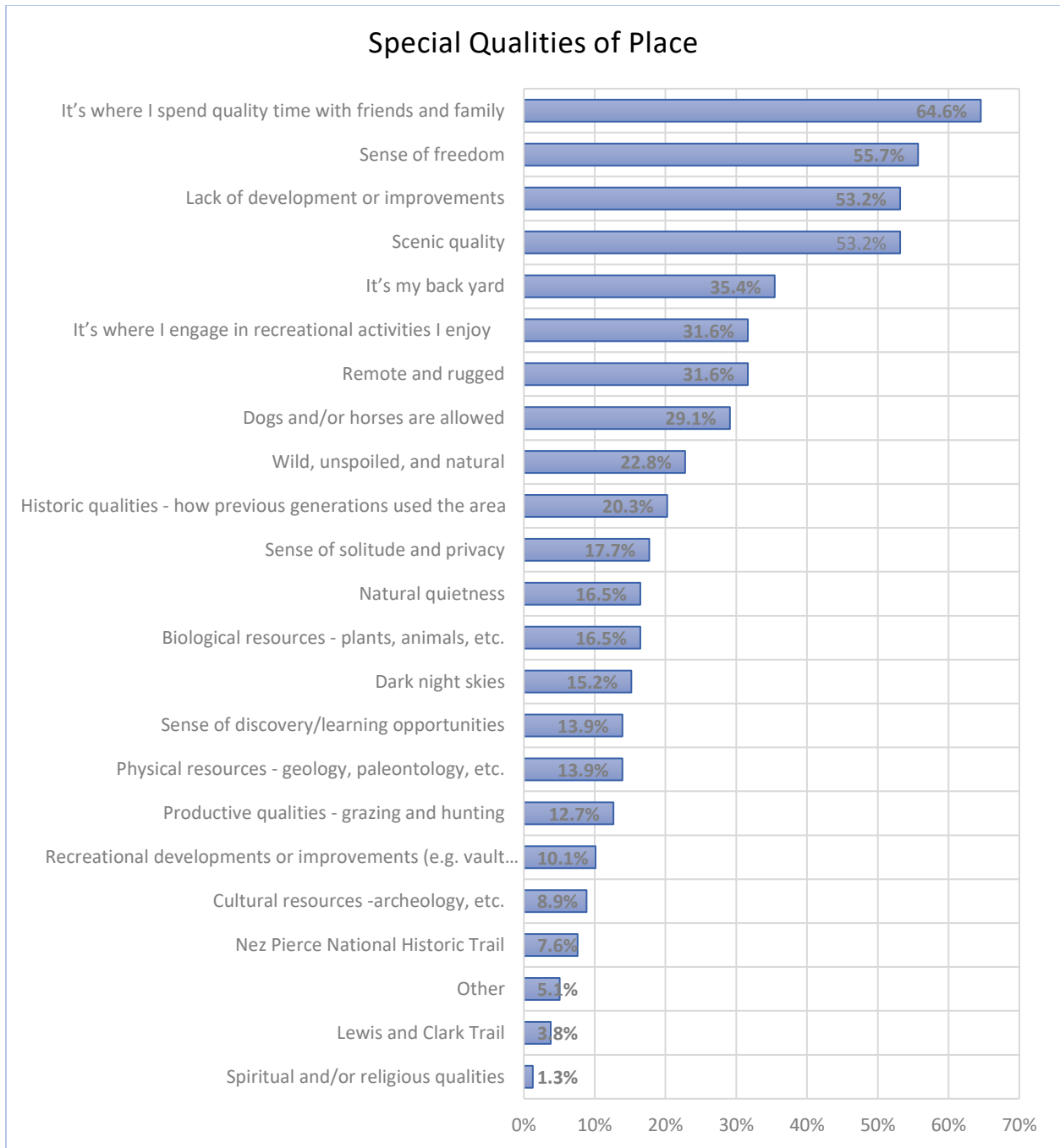
of 20 qualities that are often identified as special characteristics of public lands according to past research. In each of the lists found in the handouts, the final option is always “other” which allows participants to identify in writing the qualities that are important to them<sup>6</sup>. The special qualities are listed with the percentage of participants selecting them in Figure 15 below. Participants seemed to particularly value the time they can spend with family and friends while recreating on these lands that are close to their home (their backyard). They also appreciate the freedom they experience while recreating and the lack of development that offers them a remote and rugged place to enjoy their favorite recreational activities in a scenic and beautiful setting. It should be noted that in this question and several that follow, the participants were allowed to choose more than one selection. The percentages found in these tables represent the percentage of participants overall that selected each value with any of their choices.

---

<sup>6</sup> Participants were asked to focus their selections on the characteristics that really matter to them by limiting their choices to five or fewer for the first two questions in this section, and three or fewer for the rest of the questions in this section. The percentage in each figure is the percentage of overall participants in the study selecting a particular quality.



Figure 15: Special qualities of BLM lands in area.

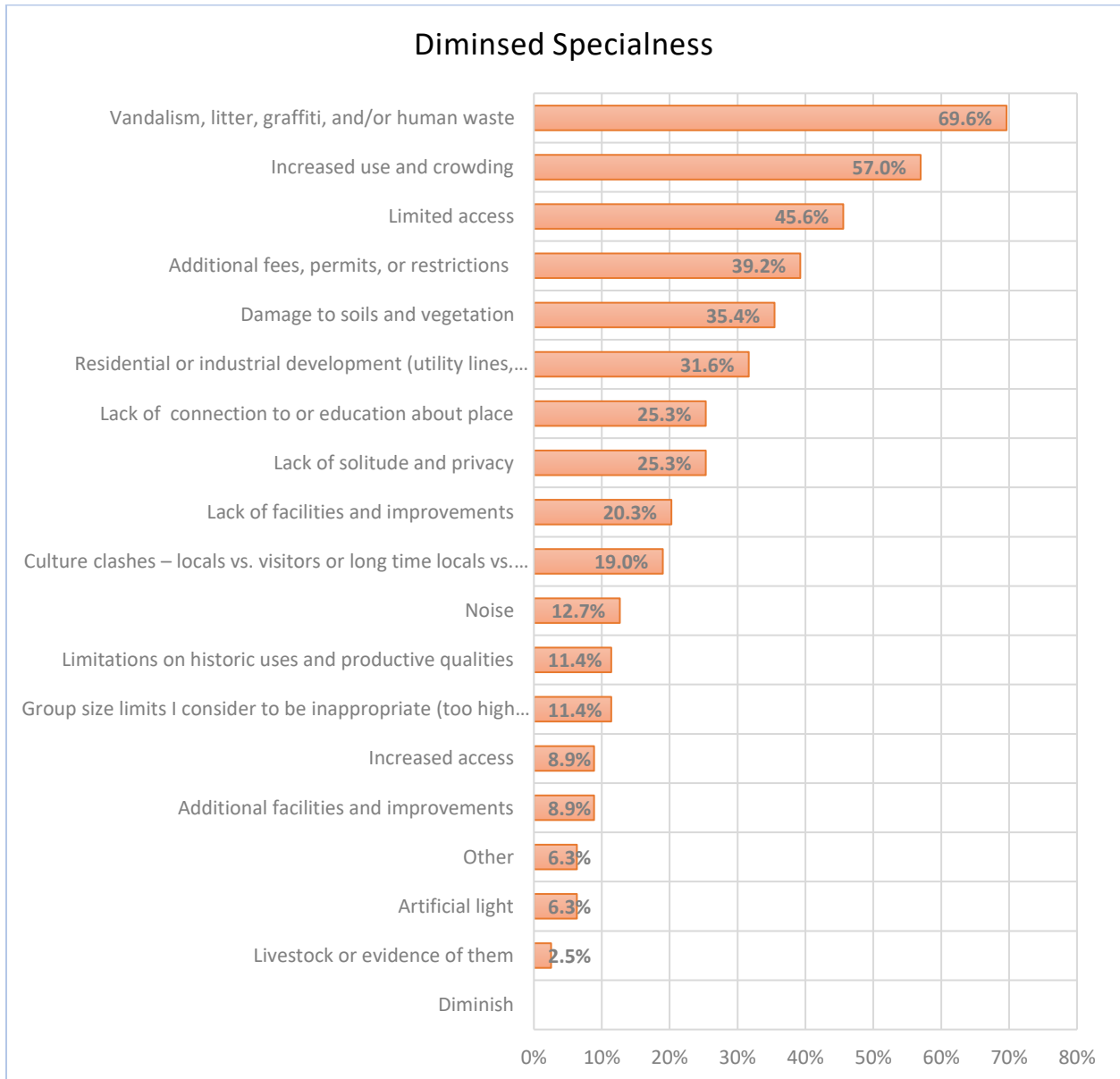


### Negative Experiences

Next, participants were asked to talk about what might diminish the specialness of places managed by the BLM in the Butte FO that they had identified as their area of focus. They were given a list of 20 qualities that often are identified as diminishing special characteristics of public lands according to past research. They were asked to choose up to five qualities that are

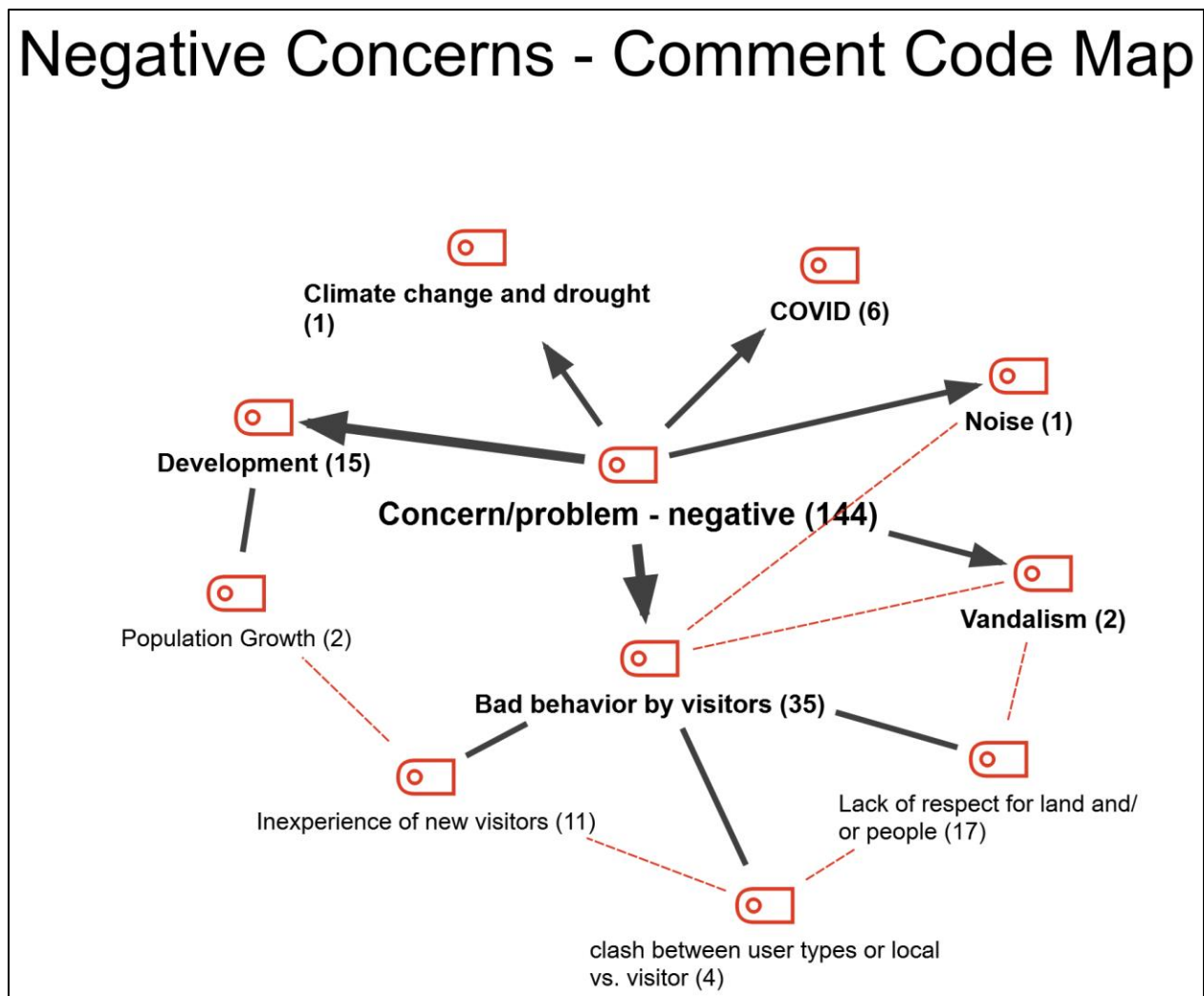
most important to them. Figure 16 shows the percentage of participants in each study area that selected a particular quality. Typical of most public land studies, the most frequently selected negative attribute is vandalism, litter, graffiti and/or human waste. Like many locations on public land since the significant increase in outdoor recreation visitors because of COVID, participants expressed a great deal of concern over the increased use and crowding. Other common choices for threats to their experience include lack of access, additional fees, and damage to the resources.

Figure 16: Items that would diminish specialness of landscape.



There were a significant number of negative comments offered throughout the focus group meetings. A complete set of these comments can be found in Appendix 2, but the themes of their concerns are mapped below in Figure 17. The most common concerns expressed are directed toward bad behavior by other visitors including a lack of respect for the people and the landscapes as well as the inexperience of new visitors in the wake of COVID. Their lack of knowledge about their activity and the land itself was often cited as a safety issue and a threat to their fellow recreators and the land itself.

Figure 17: Negative comments code map.



### Desired Outcomes – Benefits of Recreation

Several of the open-ended questions and some preset response questions in the study were designed to better understand the desired recreational outcomes of the participants. These outcomes are essential for the BLM recreational planning process. Some of these recreational outcomes contribute to the character of the community or landscape as noted earlier. Other

responses highlight the setting characteristics that are favorable to producing or maintaining those desired outcomes. These responses will be addressed later in the report in the setting characteristics section. However, some of the responses and comments have been coded directly as desired outcomes or benefits of recreation on public lands. The comments relating to any of these benefits (personal, relational/household, or community/environment) are numbered in Figure 18 below and they have been coded for theme. These codes are mapped in figure 19 below. The specific comments, and all other coded and mapped comments are located by theme in Appendix 2.

Figure 18: Benefits comment count.

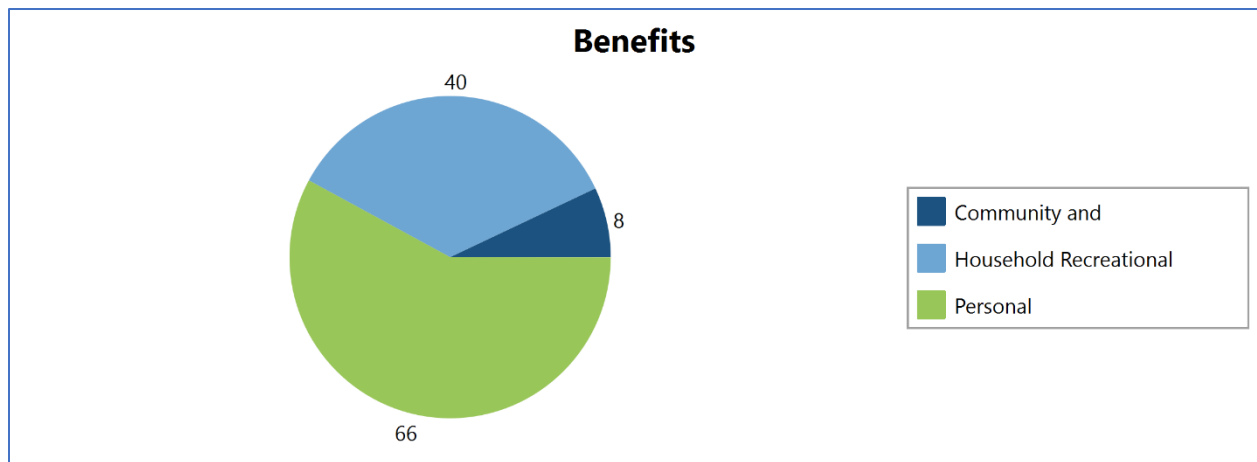
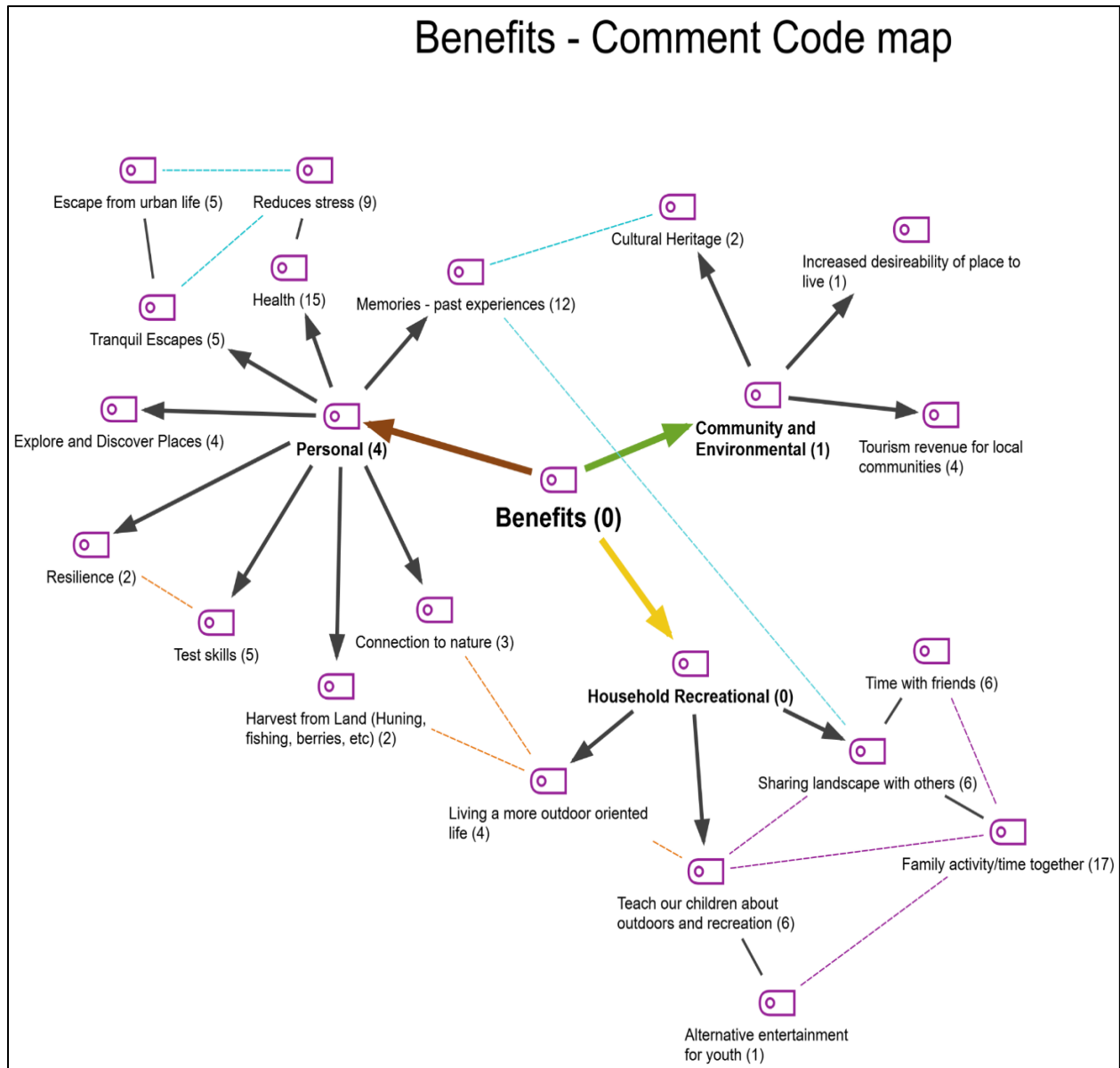


Figure 19 indicates that participants gain a wide variety of benefits from recreation in the Butte FO BLM managed lands. Personal benefits most frequently mentioned include physical and mental health, a closer connection to nature, opportunities to discover and explore new places, and opportunities to test their skills and build resilience. Household and relational benefits most often mentioned include time with family and friends, living a more outdoor-oriented lifestyle which makes this area a more desirable place to live, and the opportunity to share the landscape with others including visitors to the landscape. The community and environmental benefits most often mentioned include the economic benefits of tourism for the local communities, preservation of cultural heritage and a greater appreciation of our connection to the natural world. Individual comments organized by benefit are found in Appendix 2 and help to add nuance to these broad categories. For local residents who participated in the focus groups, there is a clear connection between the BLM lands, access, the variety of recreational opportunities, and their quality of life. Concerns were raised about the increased crowding on those lands, the lack of respect for and damage of those landscapes, and the lack of communication/education about the public lands in the field office between the BLM and the public. There is a strong connection to place and a desire to be engaged in the management decisions and stewardship of those lands. These comments point to a great opportunity to enhance the public engagement through outreach efforts by the BLM to volunteer organizations and the local population.

Figure 19: Benefits comment code map.



Although the organization of this report separates the benefits into discrete categories of personal, household/relational, and community/environment; it is clear from the participant comments in these areas that these benefits are often interrelated. Management decisions about the setting characteristics of the landscape will have a profound effect on the attainment of these benefits. For example, decisions about the development of campsites and wider trails will have a direct effect on a family’s ability to spend time together in the landscape. Signage will help people identify where they are going and what they are encountering in the landscape. Signage can also play an important role in achieving the goal of educating visitors on the attributes of the landscape as well as guidance on their behavior which will preserve the

setting and enhance the experience of other visitors who recreate on the landscape. The presence of law enforcement officers and other BLM personnel on the landscape is also essential for maintaining the health of the public land and the safety of visitors according to participants. The comments in Appendix 2 offer numerous practical suggestions on how management decisions affect the attainment of desired outcomes while recreating.

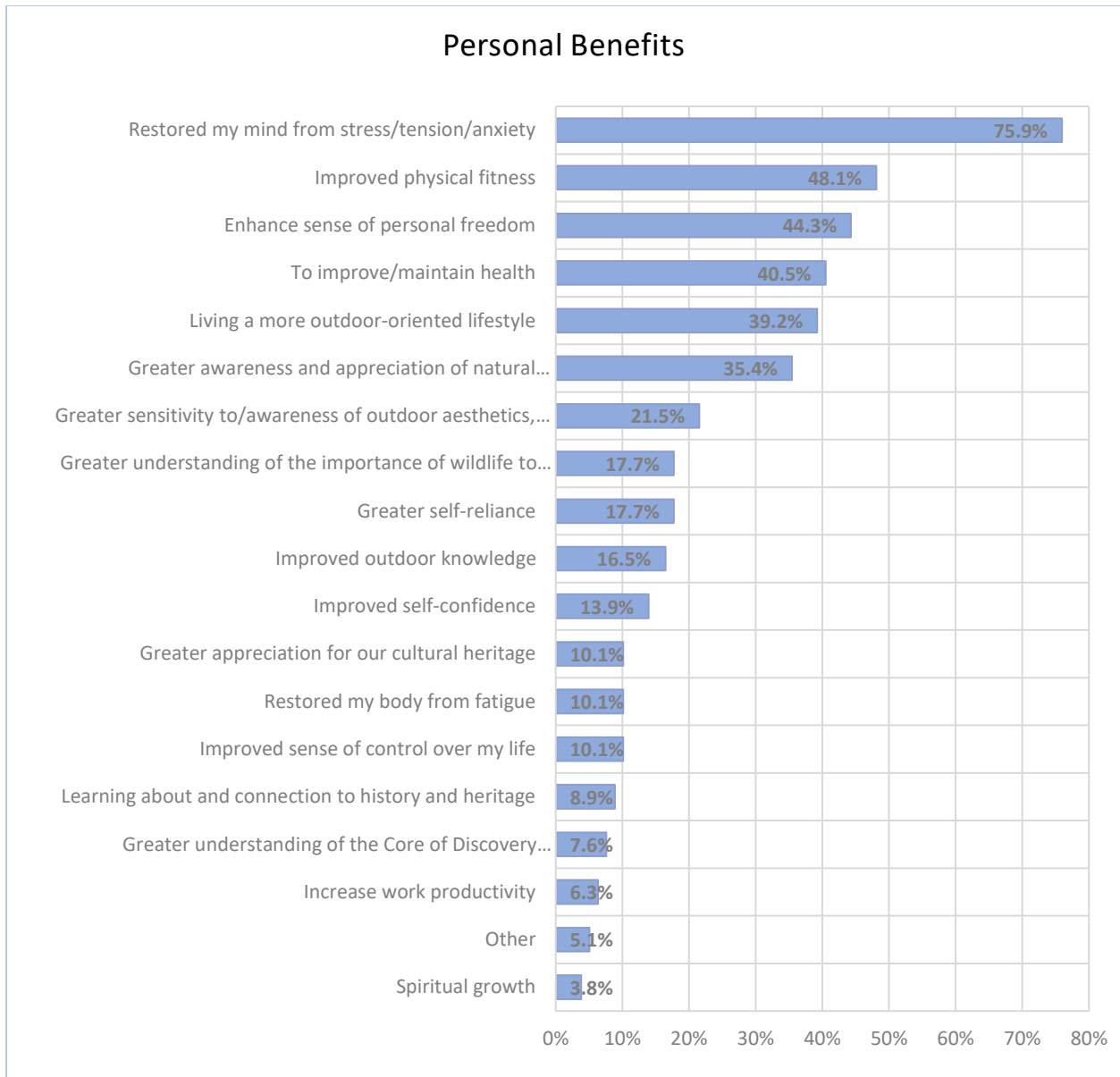


*Figure 20: Access to Recreational Benefits - Central MT 2023*

### Personal Beneficial Outcomes from Recreation

The research on the benefits of outdoor recreation, especially on public lands, tends to divide the benefits into different categories depending on who is receiving the benefit from the recreation. If the visitor themselves are the primary beneficiaries, then it is considered personal benefits of recreation (recorded in Figure 21 below). Recreation on public lands provides most participants (76%) with relief from the stress, tension and anxiety of modern life. Nearly half of the participants also identified the physical fitness that comes from outdoor recreation in the Butte FO as one of their top personal beneficial outcomes. Other personal benefits that were identified as important outcomes of recreation to over a third of the participants in the study include a sense of personal freedom, living a more outdoor-oriented lifestyle, and greater awareness and appreciation of the natural environment. Individual comments suggest that this connection to nature is vital to developing a better respect for the landscape and fellow visitors, the absence of which makes it difficult to achieve any other benefit.

Figure 21: Personal Benefits - participant preferences.

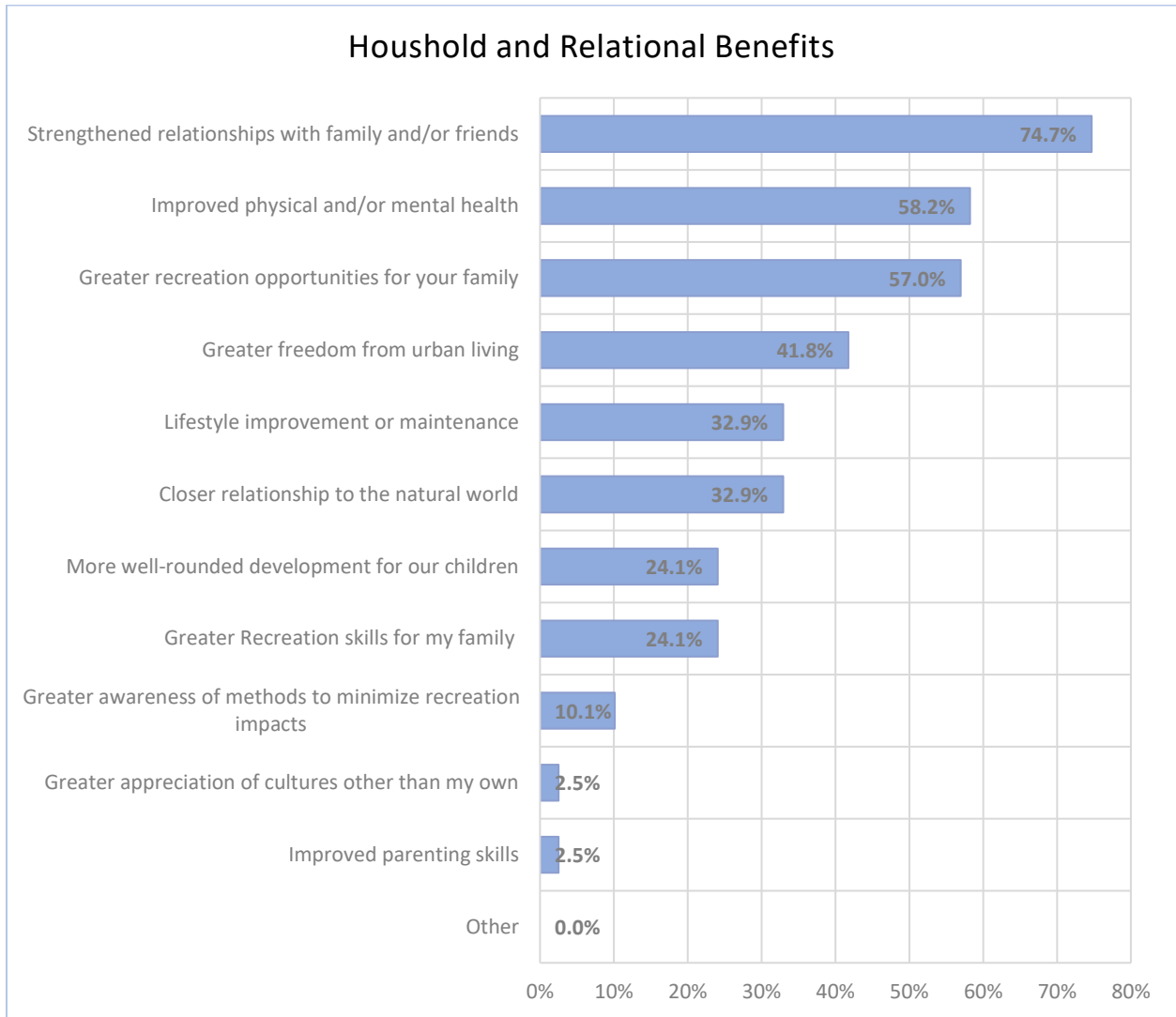


### Household Beneficial Outcomes from Recreation

If close family and friends benefit from the recreation, or the change in attitude that comes with recreation, then it is considered household/relational benefits of recreation (recorded in Figure 22 below). Time together with family and friends was identified as a top desired household/relational outcome of recreation on public lands in the Butte FO by three quarters of the participants. The benefit of improved physical and mental health is highlighted in this category of benefits as well. Other outcomes highlighted reinforce the desirability of personal freedom, escape from urban living, a more outdoor oriented lifestyle, and closer relationship with the natural world. The alignment of these different categories of benefits reinforces the

interrelatedness of these categories and the salience of the themes of physical and mental health, personal freedom, and connections with other people and the landscape itself.

Figure 22: Relational and Household Benefits - participant preferences.



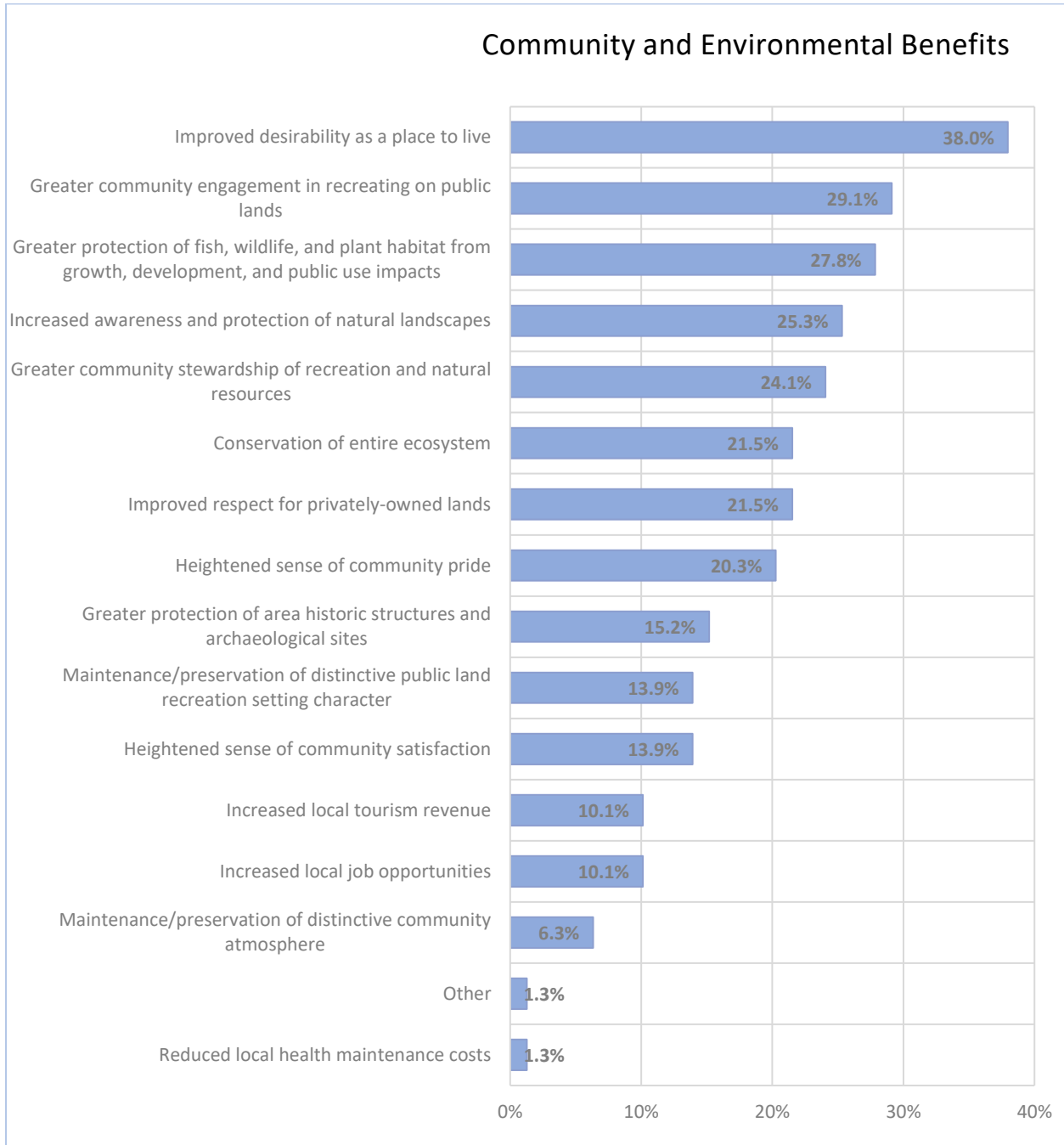
### Community and Environmental Beneficial Outcomes from Recreation

If the benefits of outdoor recreation flow to the entire community or to the environment itself, then it is considered Community and/or environmental benefits (recorded in Figure 23 below). Overall, the opportunities for recreation on nearby public lands enhances the desirability of this area as a place to live for most of the local residents in this study. 29% of the participants selected greater engagement in recreating and caring for public lands as a valued community outcome in the area. This engagement facilitates greater awareness of and desire to protect the natural landscapes as well as a desire to steward those public lands by community



members. Not only do they believe that recreation leads to a greater desire to protect public lands, but 21.5% of the participants indicate that a desirable outcome of public lands recreation is to improve the respect for privately-owned lands in the area as well.

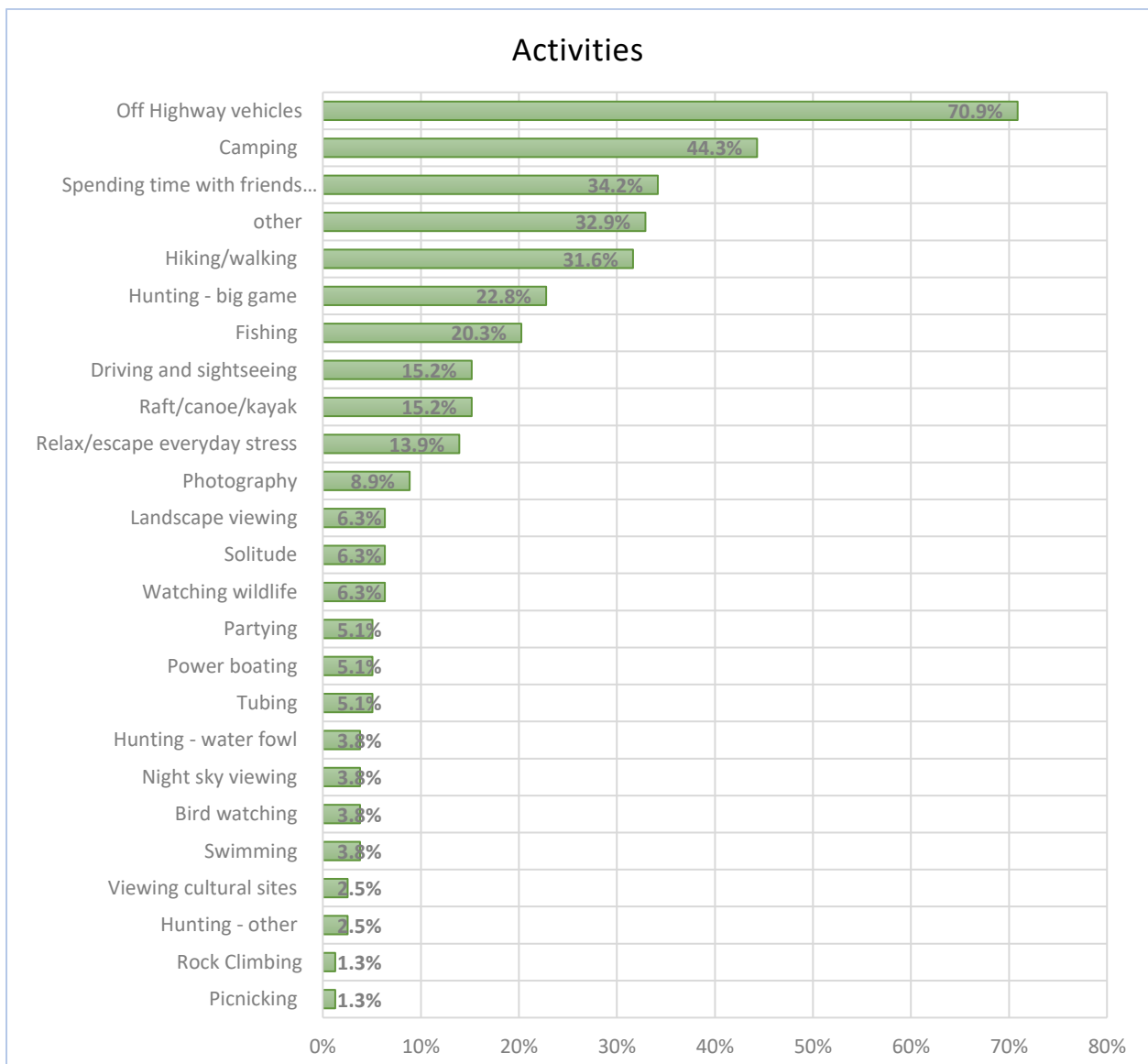
Figure 23: Community and Environmental Benefits - participant preferences.



# Activities

After considering their expectations and desired outcomes when recreating in the selected area, participants were asked which activities they engaged in most often when visiting public lands in the area. Because many visitors to public lands combine several activities during any particular visit, participants were allowed to select up to three activities they engage in most often in the area. A list of the activities that participants engage in the most in the public lands managed by the Butte FO and the percentage of participants selecting each of those activities is listed in Figure 24 below. OHV use was selected as one of the most common activities for 71% of the participants in the study, followed by almost half (44%) that selected camping.

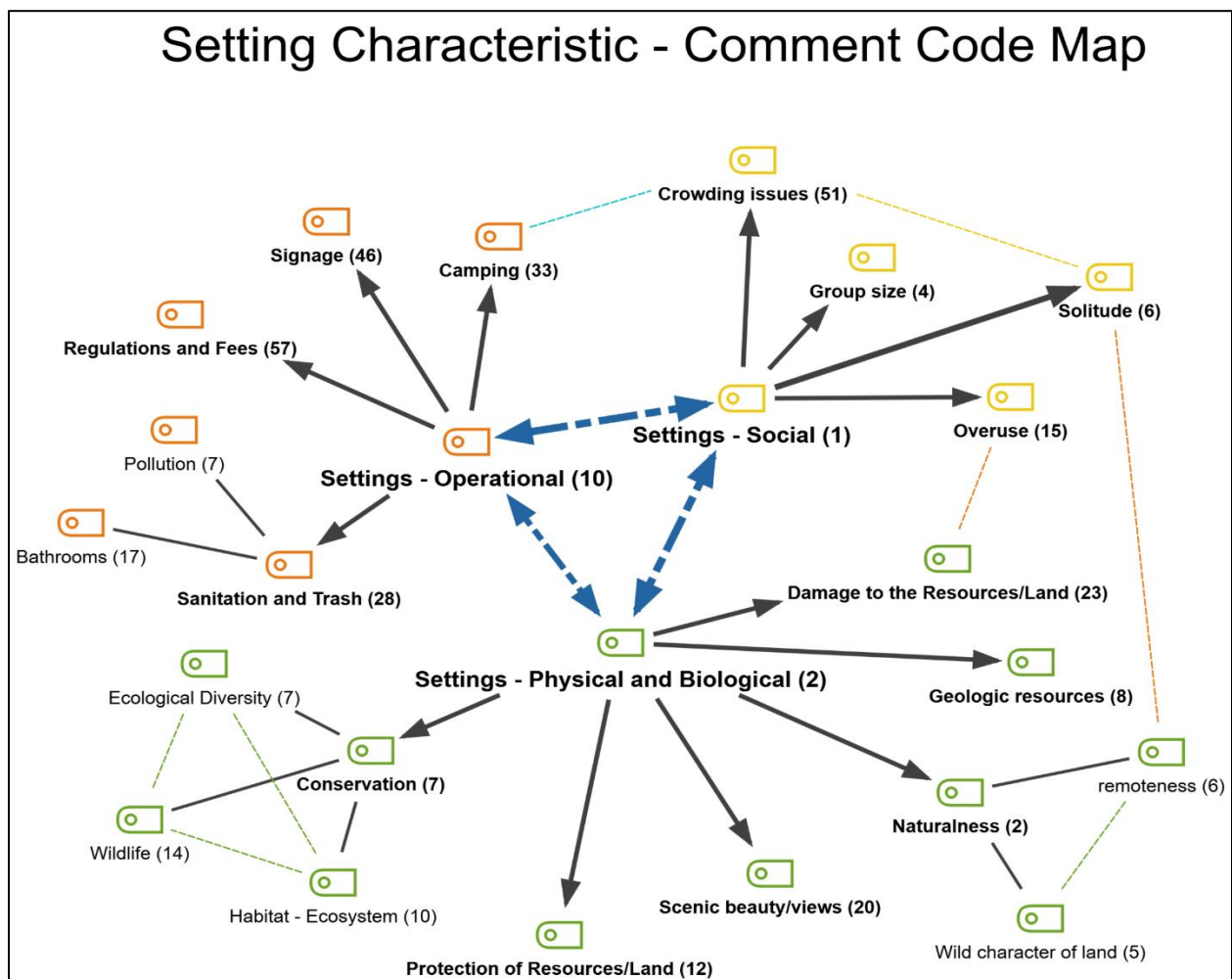
Figure 24: Activities - participant preferences.



# Setting Characteristics of the Landscape

An important tool for land managers to use when planning for desired recreational outcomes is the setting characteristics of the landscape. These might include: the physical qualities of the landscape including remoteness, naturalness, and visitor facilities; the social qualities associated with the landscape such as number of contacts, group size and evidence of use; or the operational conditions needed to manage the recreation such as access, visitor services and managerial controls. While these are vital elements needed to produce the recreational outcomes and experiences desired by the public, experience directly asking about these characteristics often produced more confusion for the public than useful data to inform the planning process. As a result, questions were designed to elicit responses to inform the various dimensions of the recreational opportunity spectrum (ROS) planning tool without directly engaging the public with that management tool. Their responses were then coded and organized to provide actionable data for planning. The setting characteristics of the landscape are captured in the comment code map in figure 25 below.

Figure 25: Setting Characteristics



## Operational Setting Characteristics

Operational setting characteristics include characteristics of the landscape that are managed directly by land agencies including the level of motorized use, the amount and quality of visitor services such as trail heads, campsites and signage, and the management controls put into place to preserve the desired outcomes in an area such as rules, regulations, and law enforcement/BLM presence on the landscape. Individual comments by the participants indicate that the most significant issue for operational control is the impacts of increased use including trash, vandalism, human waste, and pollution that often accompany such an increase in use. Management tools such as more signage, restrooms, and trash facilities are recommended for areas experiencing particularly heavy use. Access to public lands is one of the most consistent recommendations which includes not only keeping trails open, but maintenance of existing trails, development of a variety of new trails, and interagency cooperation that will facilitate more connectivity between different management areas and more consistency of the recreational experience between these areas. For the participants in this study, the need for interagency cooperation is most acute in the Pipestone SRMA area that is part of a larger trail network stretching across lands managed by both the BLM and the US Forest Service. Another issue that was raised repeatedly in most of the focus groups was the presence and regulation of e-bikes as a new recreational technology. The debate is clearly captured in the comments in Appendix 2 and too nuanced to summarize here. Readers are encouraged to review those comments to get a better understanding of the promise and threat of e-bikes as perceived by the participants of the study. Figure 26 below displays the breakdown of themes for the operational setting comments gathered in this study.

Figure 26: Operational setting characteristics comment count

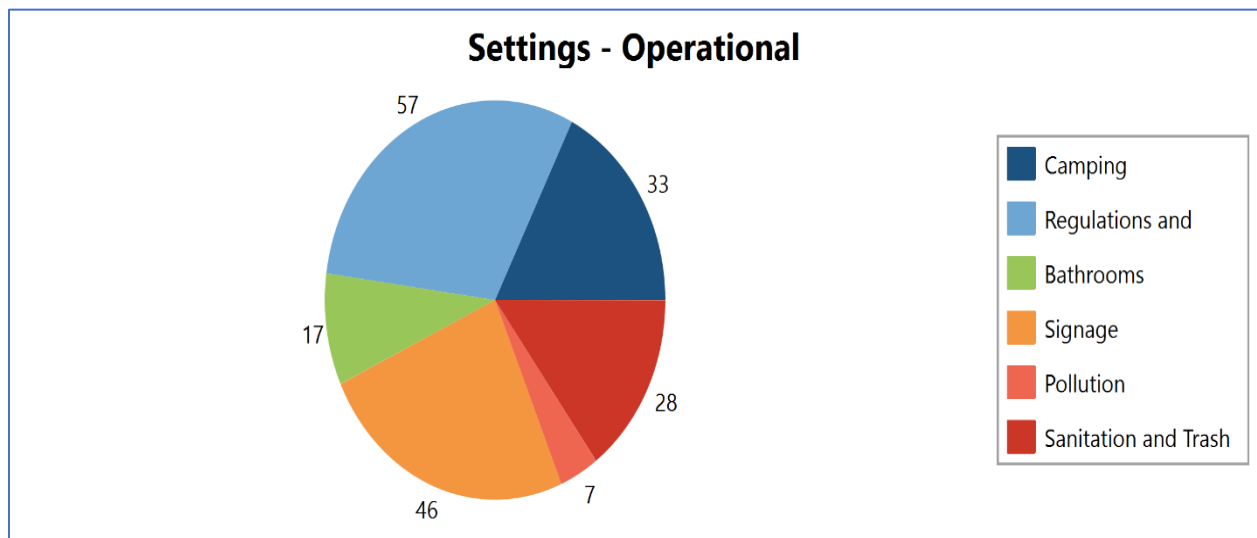


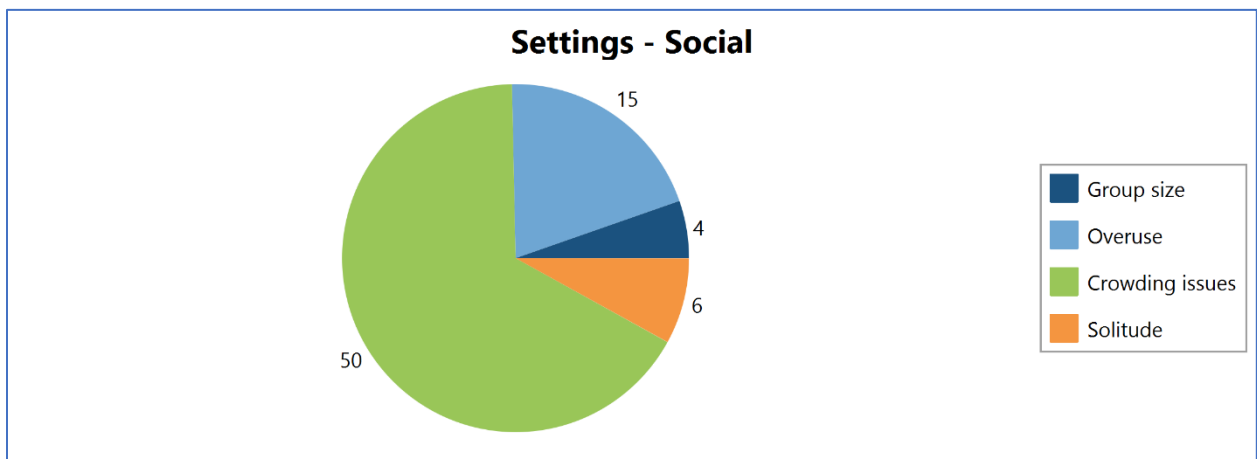


Figure 27: Recreation Infrastructure at Copper City Trailhead - Butte FO 2023

### Social Setting Characteristics

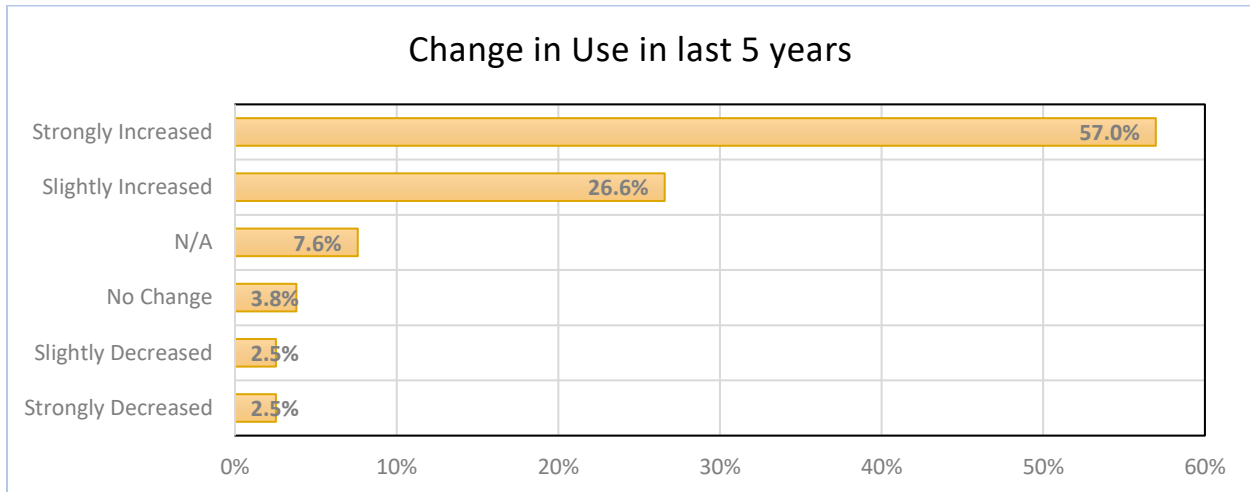
Social setting characteristics of the landscape include management decisions regarding the number of other visitors encountered while recreating, the size of groups allowed to recreate together and evidence of human use in the area. When the social setting characteristics do not match the expectations of the visitors, issues of “crowding” and “overuse” are frequent responses in the participant comments. This is a common theme in the study.

Figure 28: Social setting characteristics comment count



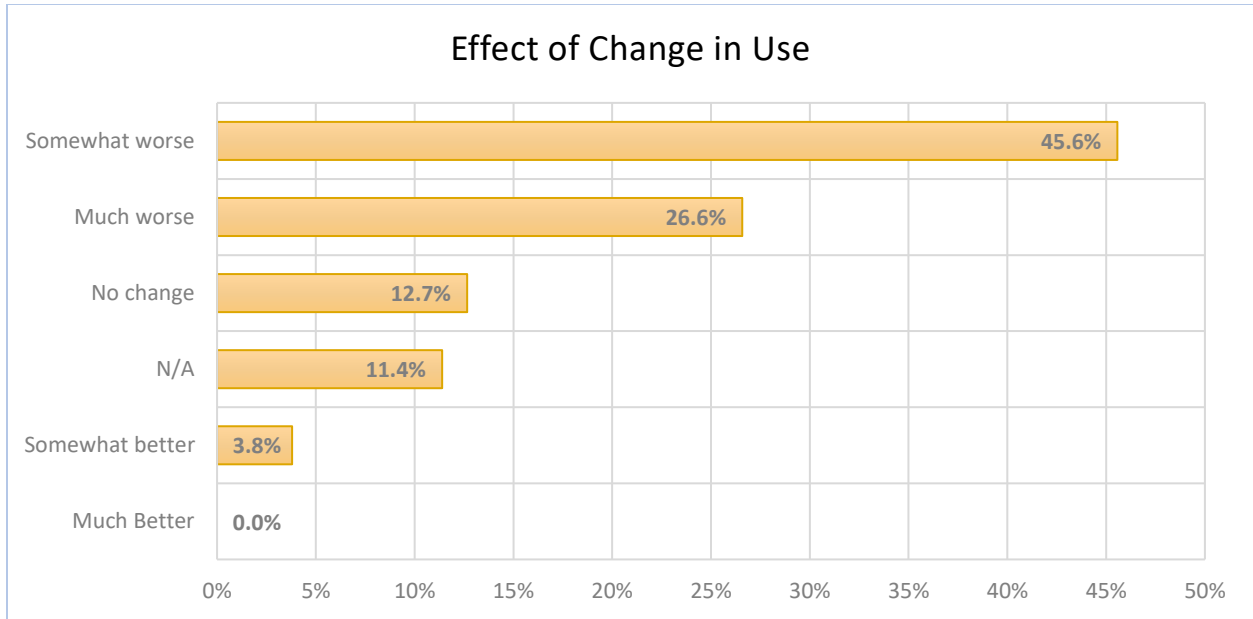
One of the most important social setting characteristics to be managed for on any public lands is the perceived crowding and overuse by other visitors. Participants were asked about their perception of change in use in the area over the last five years, and whether those changes had made the conditions of the landscape better or worse. Over 80% of participants in every area identified an increase in use in their areas, with a majority describing the change in use over the last 5 years as “strongly increased.” Only 5% of the participants perceived a decrease in usage over the last 5 years. Responses are recorded in Figure 29 below.

Figure 29: Perceived change in use over last 5 years.



The participants were asked a follow-up question on how the change they indicated has affected the resources in that area. Almost half of the participants said the increased use had made the conditions at the monument “somewhat worse”. 26.6% indicated that the increased use made things much worse from their perspective. Only 3.8% indicated that the change in recreation use on public lands in the area improved the situation, and that was a qualified “somewhat better” response. Written comments on the handouts indicated the increased recreational use have led to trash and crowding issues and a loss of solitude which have worsened the experience. Also, there were several comments about how the increased use in recent years was accompanied by bad behavior from other visitors that has diminished the recreational experience of the participants. These negative issues were discussed previously. The comments coded in Appendix 2 offer a variety of suggestions on how to manage these crowding issues including more dispersed recreation, development of new trails and other recreational infrastructure, increased presence of law enforcement to assure adherence to the management policies in place, and educational programs to inform visitors (particularly new visitors) about the regulations and how to properly recreate. Several participants indicated that the COVID pandemic made these conditions worse as more people turned to outdoor recreation as a response to restrictions on outer recreation and entertainment opportunities indoors. Once the public invests in outdoor recreation equipment there is a strong desire to use that equipment more often even when the indoor opportunities are returned. These observations suggest that the issues of crowding, overuse, and poor behavior are likely to persist in the area, thus their call for a land management response to address their concerns.

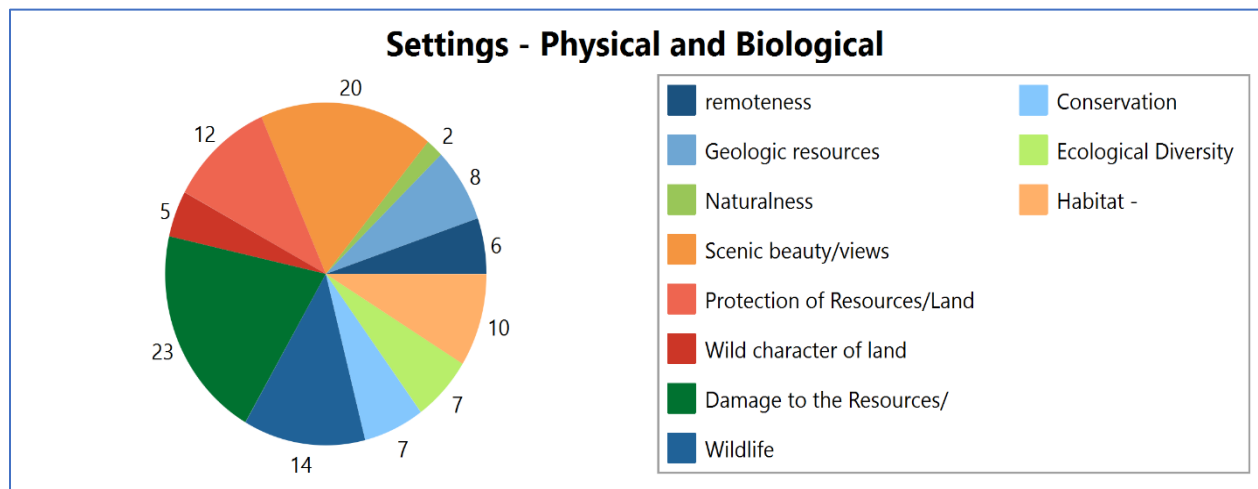
Figure 30: Effects of perceived change in se over the last 5 years.



### Physical Setting Characteristics

The physical setting characteristics of the landscape include its remoteness and natural character, the presence or absence of facilities, the habitat and ecological diversity of the flora and fauna, its geologic features, and its scenic qualities or visual resources. Given the number and diversity of themes displayed in Figure 31 below, the physical setting characteristics are important to the participants in the study. The largest number of comments were received on damage to the resources, wildlife, and the conditions of the habitat in the local ecosystem. A significant number of comments were also received regarding the visual resources in the area and the desirability of its scenic qualities for quality of life and the attainment of desired recreational outcomes.

Figure 31- Physical Setting Characteristics by comment theme.



# Management

Throughout the focus group, participants were given a series of open-ended questions to both discuss as a whole group and respond to anonymously by writing on the handout provided to them regarding the management priorities and management improvements that could be made on the monument (see Appendix 3 for complete written responses and responses captured during discussion on the flip charts). The written and verbal responses to each of these open-ended questions were coded for themes observed within the response, which were then organized by the number of comments touching on that theme. (See Appendix 2 for the management themes to emerge from their responses).

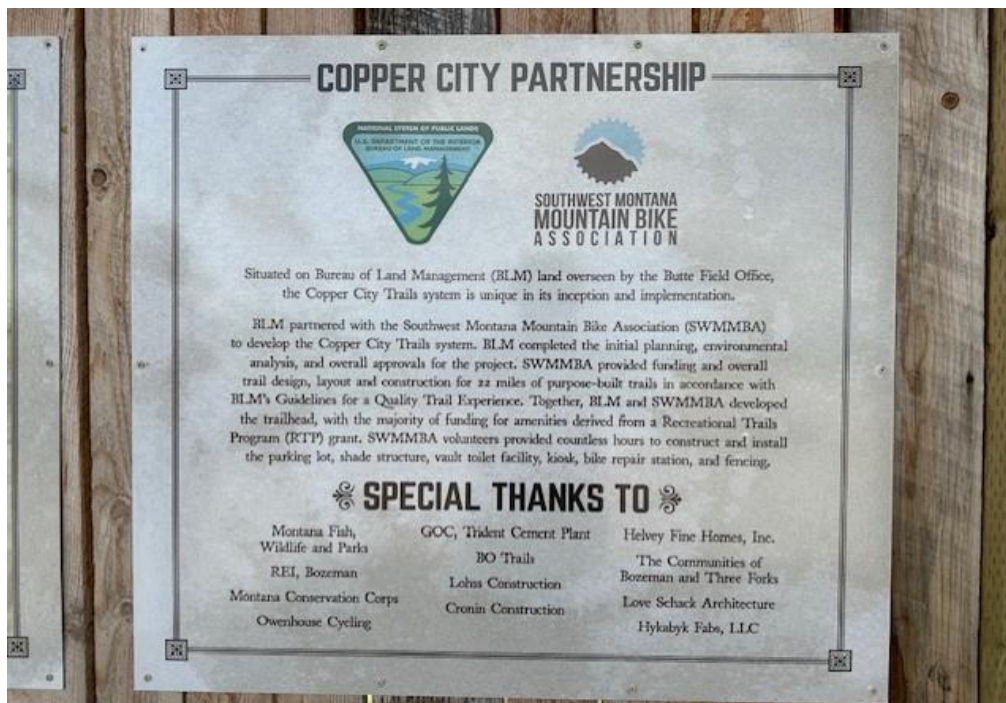


Figure 32: An example of partnerships that leverage BLM resources to provide recreational opportunities

Participants often have difficulty drawing clear distinctions between management priorities and improvements needed.

Although there

were two questions on management (priorities and improvements), both questions tap the participants' desired directions for management of the landscape. Land managers can determine which of these desires expressed is an objective and which is an actionable item. Comments regarding travel management were by far the most common management comment in the study with 219 comments coded as related to the travel management issues of access, trail maintenance, development, and connectivity. There are numerous specific comments and suggestions in Appendix 2 related to specific locations that offer direction for management decisions on these issues. Another significant theme in management comments is the need for more information whether it is maps and signage in the area, or the broader need for the BLM to communicate effectively with the public as it moves through the management process. Other themes commonly addressed in the comments were the need for more staffing in the BLM to adequately manage the resources, the need for interagency



cooperation to manage the BLM lands as they are integrated with other public lands, private property and local communities, the multi-use mandate for management priorities, the need for more law enforcement in the area, the safety of recreational visitors, and the condition of the recreational infrastructure that already exists on the landscape.

Figure 33: Management comment count.

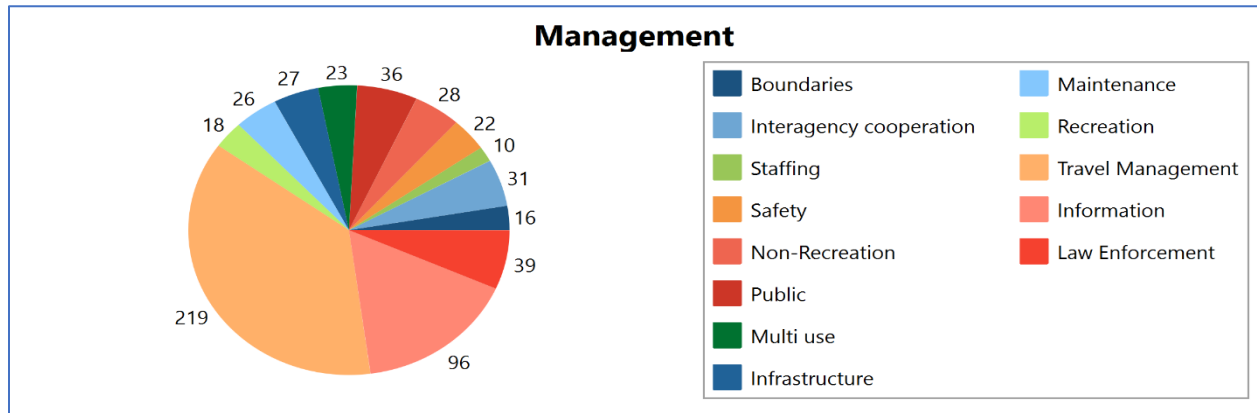
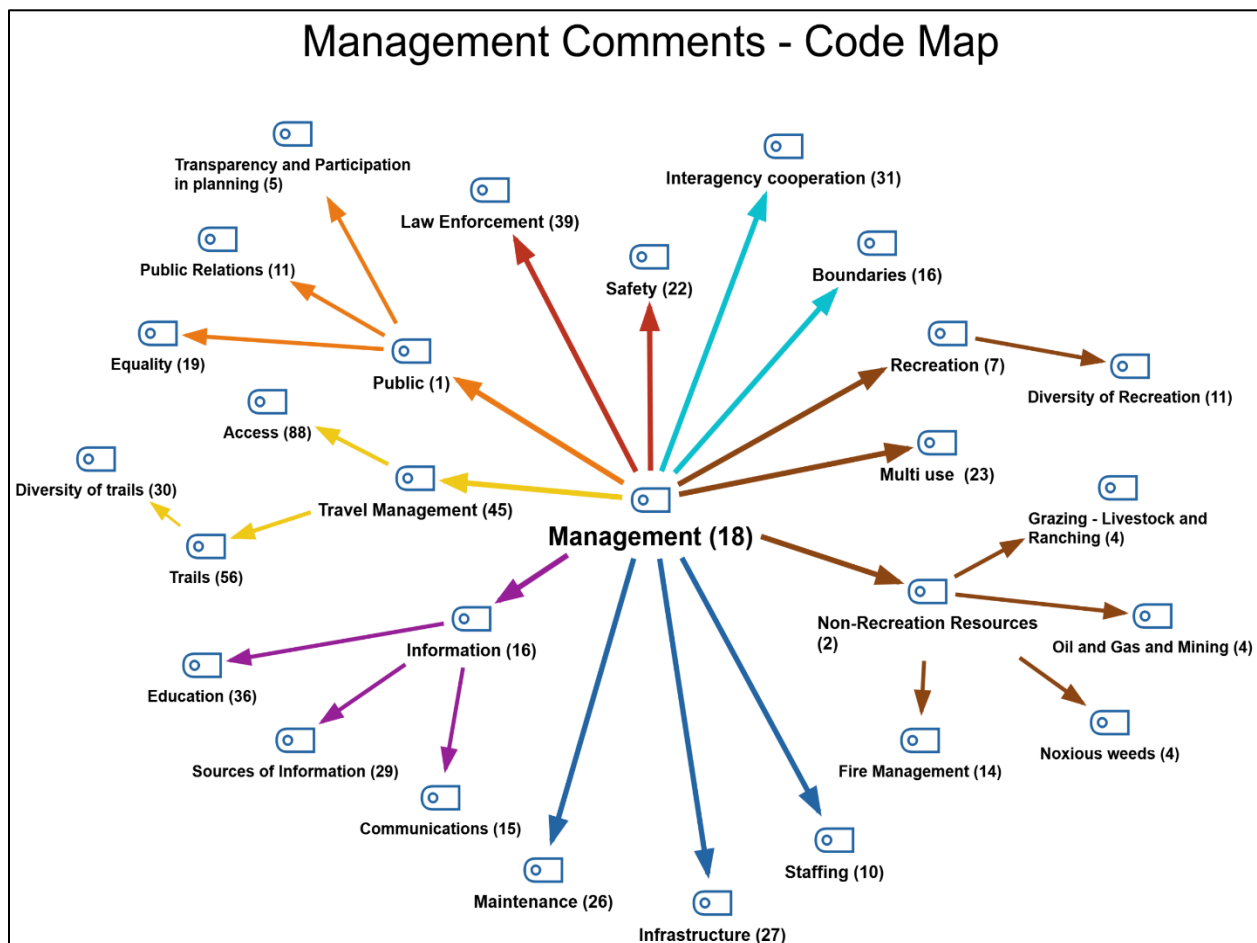


Figure 34: Management comment code map.



Although this was a recreation focus group study, recreation is often impacted by non-recreational management priorities in the BLM. With a multi-use mandate the BLM not only needs to consider the recreation on public land (where most of the public encounters the landscape), but also the productive uses of the landscape such as grazing and mineral extraction as well as threats to the health of the landscape from sources such as noxious weeds and wildfire. Several comments addressing these priorities were also offered by the participants. Fire management received the most comments with fewer comments offered on grazing and mineral management than are typically received in other studies.

## Information and Services

An important aspect of a successful outdoor recreation experience is the quality of the information used in preparation for the outing, and the variety of services that support those experiences. Participants were asked to identify all the sources of information and services they rely on. They were allowed to select as many sources of information as they use. The graph in Figure 35 below displays the results and popularity of these information sources the participants rely on to be successful in their recreation in the area. The familiarity of the local residents with the landscape is obvious in their reliance on past experience, personal knowledge and family and friends as their primary sources of recreational information. Digital apps are a growing source of information relied on by participants to be successful in their recreational outings as well as a reliance on more traditional sources of information such as maps and websites (both governmental and non-governmental). Visitor centers and travel and tourism associations were rarely identified as sources of information in the Butte FO.

Figure 35: Sources of Information

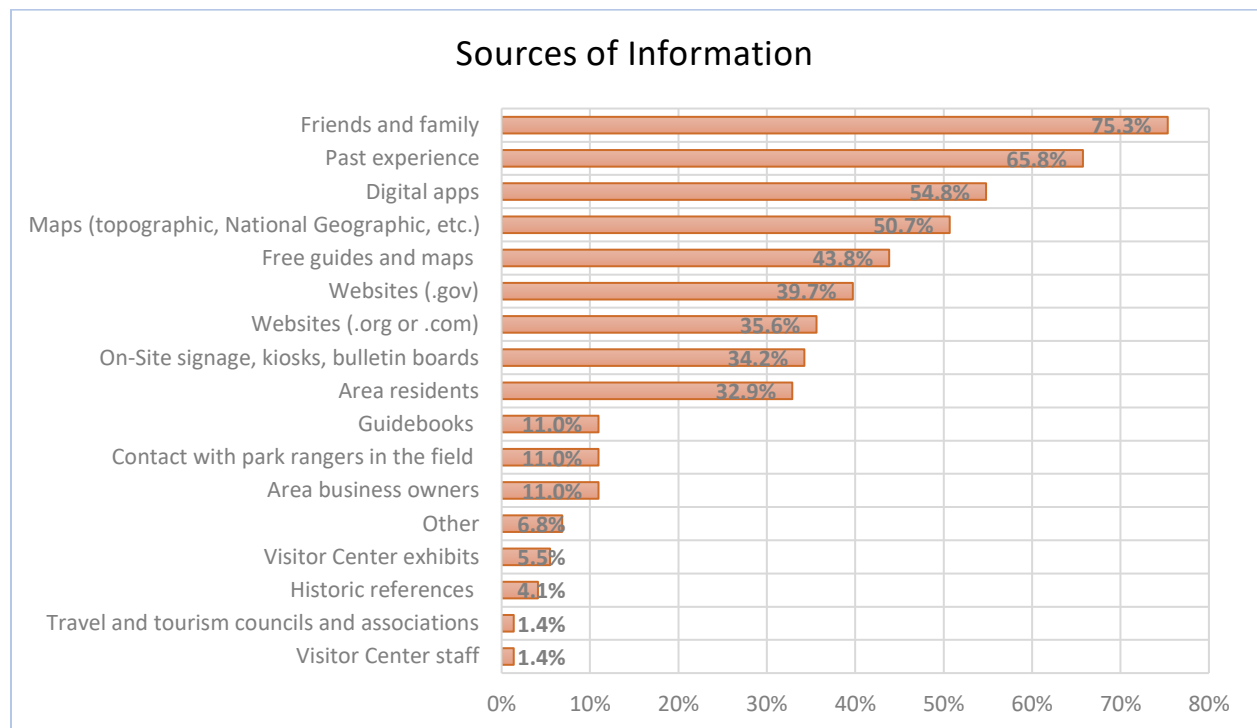
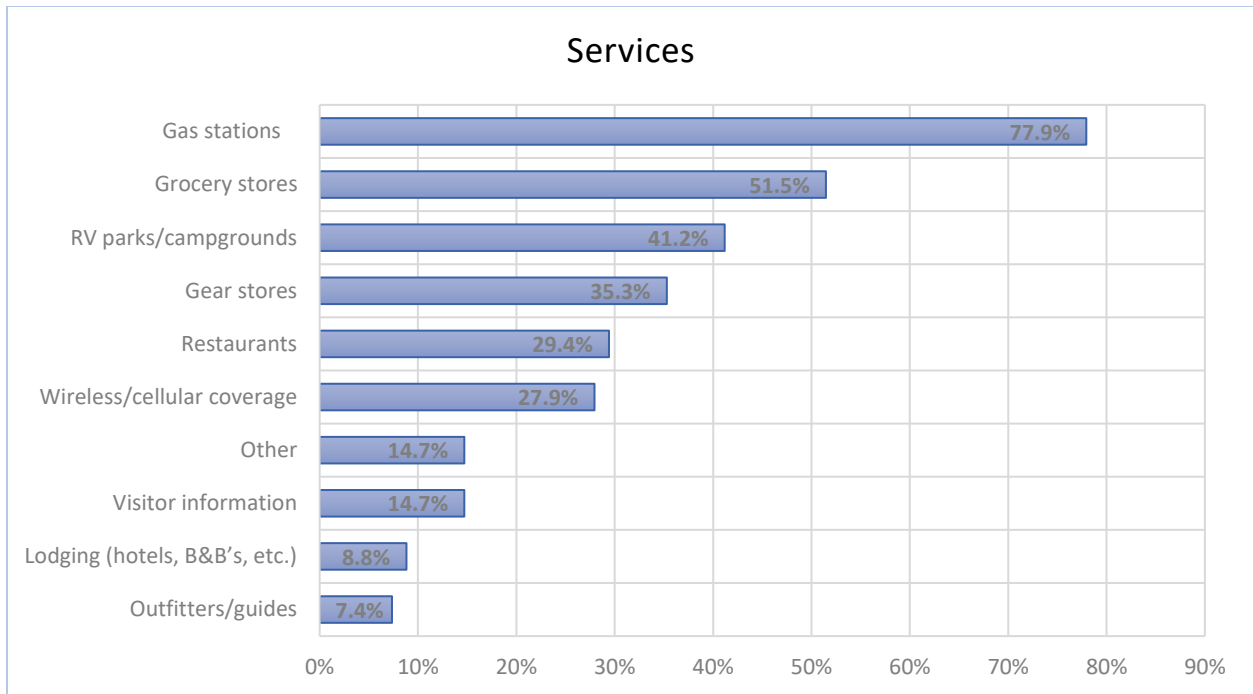




Figure 36 -Diversity of Information at Kiosk for Coper City Trails recreation area

Participants were also asked about other services they rely on to be successful in their recreation. Typically, local residents rely most heavily on services that provide resources they need to access public lands such as gas stations and the provisions they will need while recreating which are often found in grocery stores. Visitors from beyond the local area are far more likely to rely on services such as outfitters and guides or lodging. The data gathered in this study supports that trend. It should be noted that because the needs of local residents for services differs considerably from those visiting from further away, this focus group study data (which draws almost exclusively from local recreators and communities) needs to be balanced by the information gathered from all recreational visitors in the on-site recreational surveys explained in the recreational survey report produced by the team at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. In the area of services relied on to successfully recreate on lands in the Butte FO, it is essential to consider both studies to determine what services are needed for each group of visitors. The graph in Figure 37 identifies the percentage of all participants selecting a particular service.

Figure 37: Services used to support recreation



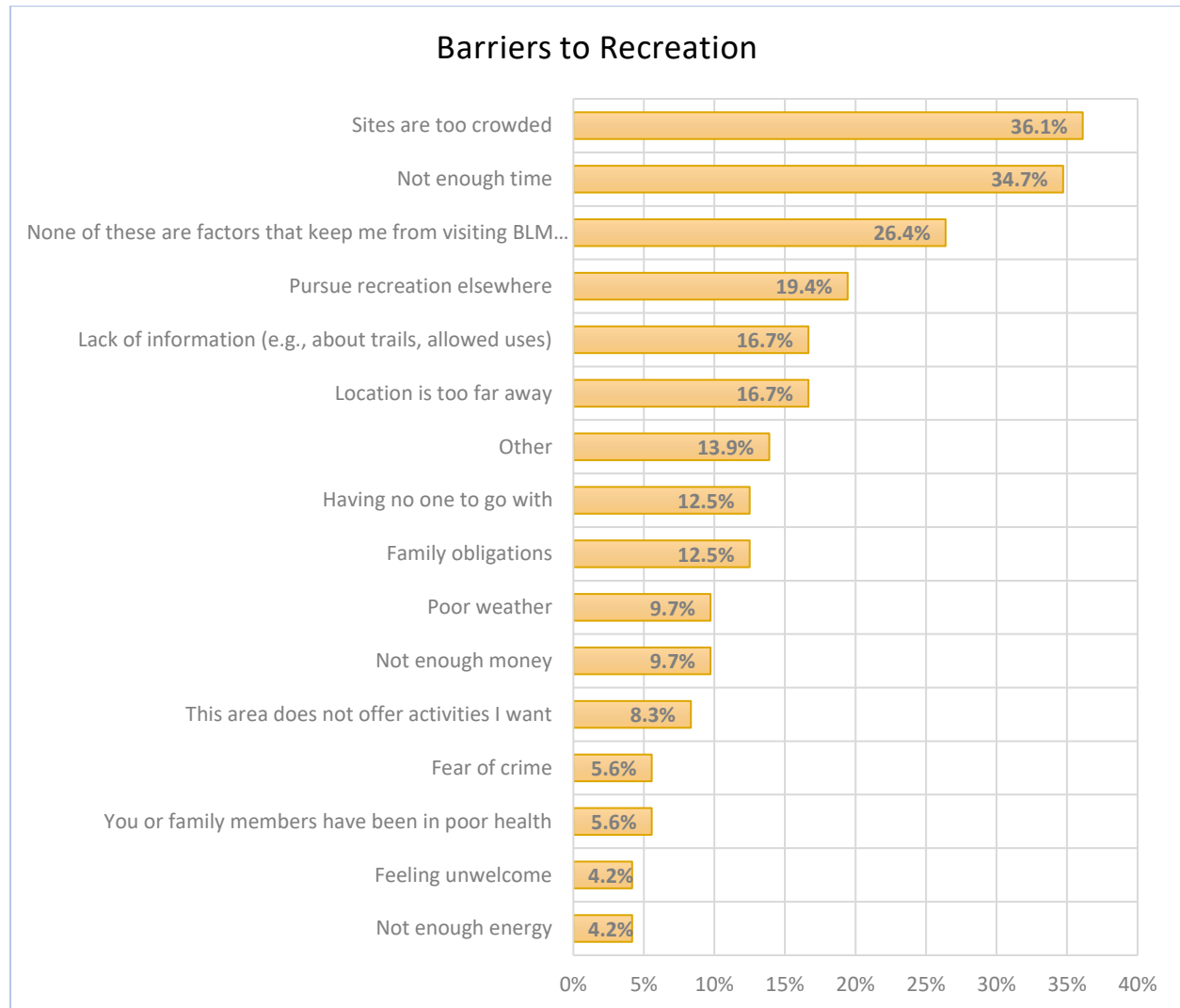
Following up on the question of what services participants rely on, they were asked to name any services that are missing or inadequate to support their recreation in the Butte FO. A complete set of missing services is recorded in Appendix 2 and 3. Missing services frequently mentioned include: more recreational infrastructure such as toilets, wash stations, potable water, trail connectivity, and parking lots; more information from signage to road condition and weather information; and more education opportunities from land ethic to proper techniques for recreation and safety.

## Barriers to Outdoor Recreation in the Butte FO

At the end of the focus group session, the participants were asked a series of questions about barriers to outdoor recreation in the area. A few of these were open-ended questions and those responses have been coded and mapped in earlier sections of this report. One of the questions was a list of barriers to choose from that prevent them from recreating more often in lands managed by the Butte FO. They were allowed to select all that apply, and those responses are recorded below in Figure 39. Once again, the issue of crowded recreational facilities is identified as not only an issue to be addressed, but as a barrier to more recreation in the area. Lack of time is frequently mentioned as a barrier to more recreation. Although the BLM certainly cannot manage time itself, it can impact the time it takes to access recreational opportunities through travel management decisions and maintenance of recreational infrastructure such as roads and trails. 26% of the participants found no barriers to visitation. Other themes in this report such as a lack of information about recreational opportunities are also identified as a barrier to recreation. Finally, it is worth noting that several of the barriers

identified below reflect household and relational outcomes such as the lack of someone to go with, family obligations, and even health issues for the participants or their family members.

Figure 38: Barriers to recreation in the Butte Field Office



## Conclusions

The landscape, including its recreational management, is vital to the quality of life for surrounding communities. This study surfaces a variety of issues related to management that should be considered and addressed in the planning process. Chief among these are: the protection of the resources, access to public lands, management of increased visitation, and education and information about the landscape broadly communicated by the BLM. Although the sheer volume of comments in Appendix 2 and 3 suggests there are many issues of concern for the (largely) local resident population that responded to this study. The most significant themes are identified here.

## **Sense of Place/Quality of Life**

It is clear from the data in this study that the public lands managed by the BLM Butte FO are a vital part of the quality of life for residents in the area. They are frequent recreational visitors on the landscapes in “their backyard.” Their often long-term relationship with these lands and their frequent use of the recreational opportunities on these lands contribute significantly to their connection to the landscape and their sense of place. As such, how recreation is managed on these lands has a profound impact on their lives.

## **Communication and participation in the management process**

Because the public lands adjacent to their communities is so vital to their quality of life, residents are particularly concerned about their role in the process of managing those lands and the decisions that are made regarding recreation and other management priorities. Many complained that the lack of communication and information about the process and management decisions regarding public lands is a source of frustration. They suggest a willingness to partner and help in the stewardship of the land, but a lack of adequate information about how to get involved. They recommend that BLM prioritize cooperation with local governments, user groups and other non-profit organizations as partners in the care of the landscape both to involve the public and better leverage the BLM’s limited resources to manage the landscape.

## **Education**

Related to the lack of information about the management of public lands is a larger concern about the need for education regarding those lands and the recreation on them. Numerous comments highlight opportunities to engage the public through education programs from safety and equipment use to proper respect for the land and the people on it. Suggestions range from partnerships with educators in local schools to more interpretive signage on the landscape which highlight features of the area, the historic uses of the area, and direct visitors regarding appropriate behavior while recreating on these public lands.

## **Family and Friends**

Sharing this landscape with others was also identified as an important recreational outcome for public lands in the Butte FO. This can range from simply spending quality time with family and friends in the landscape to passing on recreational pastimes and an outdoor lifestyle to the next generation. Although the participants often expressed concern about the increased visitation they are experiencing in the surrounding landscape, many were happy to see others having a chance to recreate there for its effects on local economies through tourism revenue.

and the increased commitment to protect this unique area that often arises once people have had a chance to encounter it.

### **Trails and other recreational infrastructure**

One of the most common themes to emerge from this study is the need to prioritize recreational infrastructure in the area. This includes not only the maintenance of existing infrastructure from trails to toilets, campgrounds to boat launches; it also includes the diversity of recreational experiences and the need to provide for the safety of those visitors. Improved signage across the field office would also be welcomed to help visitors achieve their desired recreational outcomes.

### **Cooperation with other land agencies and local governments**

The lands managed by the BLM in the Butte FO do not exist in a vacuum, rather they are a part of a larger landscape that includes lands managed by other agencies (federal and state), as well as the gateway communities that offer services to visitors and homes to the locals. As such, a recurring theme in this study was the need for enhanced cooperation between the BLM and these other agencies and local communities. Although participants acknowledged that some interagency cooperation is already taking place, based on their comments, it is not adequate to the needs they have. Prioritization of interagency cooperation will not only provide a more seamless recreational experience for the visitors, but it will also help the BLM to leverage their limited resources.

### **Respect for the Land and for Others**

A lack of consideration toward the landscape and other visitors was often cited as a barrier to successful recreational experiences in the area. Participants suggested this was particularly true for new visitors who lack a connection to the landscape and those adjacent to it. Participants offered several solutions to this challenge including increased law enforcement to ensure adherence to the regulations and restrictions already in place, education through programs and signage, and changes in recreational infrastructure such as more loop trails to reduce the safety concerns of two-way traffic on trails and to increase the opportunities for exploration and discovery with new scenery.

### **Freedom**

A recurring theme in almost every study of western public lands is the high premium put on the value of personal freedom afforded by the access to open spaces and lack of regulations on BLM public lands. This theme is strong in this study as well. Although it seems to contradict the call for more law enforcement in the previous theme, participants are calling for a more

nuanced approach to restrictions and regulations. They see the necessity of some regulations and law enforcement to protect the health of the landscape and the safety of visitors, but they also appreciate the open space that allows people to spread out and seek their own self-directed recreational experiences on the landscape.

### **Multi-use**

One of the most important features of the BLM public lands in the Butte FO, according to participants, is the diversity of recreational opportunities and the possibility of engaging in several activities in the same location. While there is certainly potential for user conflict from these different uses in the same location, several comments indicate that the value of multi-use recreation outweighs the potential for user conflict in this area. Participants seem to appreciate the multi-use mandate of the BLM and often called for equity in access for many recreational uses of the landscape as well as the non-recreational uses of the land that have historically been present in central Montana including grazing and mining. There are several comments on new recreational uses in the area, particularly e-bikes. Participants are split on the benefit of this new class of transportation and its impact on the resources and other uses.

### **Off Highway Vehicles (OHV)**

OHV use was by far the most common activity identified (79%) and there were more comments on OHV use in the field office than any other activity related comment. Pipestone SRMA has outstanding and diverse recreational opportunities for OHV use and participants strongly want to maintain access to that area for OHV use. They made several suggestions for improvements to the recreational infrastructure in the SRMA as well. Because it is such an outstanding opportunity for OHV use, there were crowding and safety concerns expressed. The comments on Pipestone OHV use represent one of the most nuanced discussions of the OHV experience and the needs to support that experience in any study this researcher has conducted in 15 years. There were OHV comments regarding other areas of the field office, particularly the Scratch Gravel SRMA, but most of those were regarding the recent limitations put on OHV use in that SRMA.

### **Access**

Perhaps the most common comment received in the study regards the need to maintain and enhance access to these public lands. 38 members of the Bozeman focus group showed up to express their concern when they mistakenly thought that all access to Pipestone would be shut down. This sentiment was not restricted to that focus group. Variations on the theme of keeping access open to a wide variety of recreation was a recurrent theme in every focus group conducted. A careful consideration of how salient this issue is should guide conversations



about travel management in the area which is likely to be one of the most potentially explosive issues in the planning process according to the data received in this study.

### **Crowding**

The increased visitation to public lands because of COVID and the greater visibility of outdoor recreation opportunities has put increased pressure on the landscape leading to diminished recreational experiences and degradation of the health of the landscape itself. According to participants this is one of the most important impacts on the attainment of their recreational outcomes in the field office and their quality of life in the surrounding communities. The comments in Appendix 2 regarding crowding offer a variety of suggestions for management approaches to the problem.

### **Health of the Landscape**

Many of the themes identified above point to an overall concern for the health of the landscape itself and its residents (both human and non-human). The pressure and threats to the health of the landscape vary across the field office, but the potential for lasting damage and the presence of existing damage already surfaced as a genuine concern for the participants in the study. The solution suggested is to nest the recreational planning decisions in the larger context of the ecosystem where they take place. Participants suggest it requires active management efforts from the BLM, their partners, and local communities to ensure that the changes in recreation are healthy for the landscape and sustainable in addition to achieving the desired outcomes of the recreational visitors to the area.

# Appendix 1: Focus Group Handout/Questions

## **Butte MT BLM Field Office**

### **Recreation Focus Group Study**

Focus Group Number: \_\_\_\_\_



**Tim Casey, PhD**

**Colorado Mesa University**

**Public Lands Recreational Research Partnership:**

**a collaboration between the Bureau of Land Management, University of  
Alaska, Fairbanks and Colorado Mesa University**

**2023**

# **Focus Group Questions BLM Butte Field Office OFM Data Collection Project Summer 2023**

## **Participants Ground Rules:**

- ✓ **Listen, contribute, and stay focused on the subject at hand**
- ✓ **Feel free to keep or change your opinions in response to what you hear**
- ✓ **Respect others' right to share their thoughts; do not interrupt**
- ✓ **The moderator will stop anyone who attempts to block another's views**
- ✓ **Feel free to get up and move around or visit the restroom**
- ✓ **Do not engage in separate, private discussions**
- ✓ **Remember, participation is voluntary on all questions**
- ✓ **Must sign an informed consent form to continue with the study**

## **Privacy Notice:**

- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is authorized by 43 U.S.C. 1711 and 1712 to collect this information. This information will be used by BLM managers to better understand recreational visits to public lands managed by the BLM. Your response to this request is voluntary and completely anonymous. Your name will never be associated with your answers, and all contact information will be destroyed when the information collection is concluded. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. DOI will not share this information unless authorized or as required by Federal law for security or law enforcement purposes.
- These focus groups may be recorded. These recordings will be limited to the research team and will be used to ensure the accuracy of reporting the findings of the focus group. Recordings will be destroyed after the research is concluded. PLEASE INFORM YOUR FOCUS GROUP FACILITATOR IF YOU ARE NOT COMFORTABLE BEING RECORDED.

## **Paperwork Reduction Act Statement and Burden Estimate Statement**

- An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number and expiration date. The OMB control number for this focus group is 1004-0217 (expiration date: 04/30/2025).
- Public reporting for this form is estimated to average 90 minutes per response. Please direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection to: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau Information Collection Clearance Officer (WO-630), 1849 C St., N.W., Room 2134LM, Washington, DC 20240.

## Topic Area 1: Demographics and Characteristics

1. What is your home zip code? Or country (if you are not a US resident)?
  
2. Which of the following choices best describes your association with lands managed by the BLM Butte Field Office and surrounding landscape? (circle one)
  - a. Visitor
  - b. Local Resident
  - c. Community Leader (elected/non-elected)
  - d. Outfitter/Guide
  - e. Business Owner
  - f. Other
  
3. **How long have you been connected** to the BLM lands in the Butte Field Office? (circle one)
  - a. Less than a year
  - b. 1-5 years
  - c. 6-10 years
  - d. 10-25 years
  - e. Over 25 years

## Topic Area 2: Management

4. If you were the public lands manager for a day and could set **management priorities** for the Butte Field Office, what would your priorities be?
  
5. When traveling in the area are you aware when you travel across **administrative boundaries or land designations** (BLM, Wilderness Study Areas, National Historic Trails, US Forest Service lands, state land, private land, tribal land, etc.)? If so, how does that influence what you do, your expectations, or your perceptions?

### Topic Area 3: Community Questions

6. What are the things you like about living in, or visiting, the communities in and around the landscape managed by the Butte Field Office?
  
7. How do public lands in the area affect the quality-of-life issues you just described?

### Topic Area 4: Location

8. The recreational areas have divided the landscape into several Special Recreation Management Areas (labeled on map on the back page of this handout); please indicate which SRMA you would like to tell us more about. When choosing where to recreate in this region, where do you spend the most time?
  - a. Hauser Lake SRMA
  - b. Humbug Spires SRMA
  - c. Lower Holter Lake/ Missouri River SRMA
  - d. Pipestone SRMA
  - e. Scratchgravel Hills SRMA
  - f. Sheep Mountain SRMA
  - g. Sleeping Giant/Missouri River SRMA
  - h. Upper Big Hole River SRMA
  - i. Uppermost Missouri River SRMA
  - j. Lands other than designated SRMAs in Butte Field Office

#### Topic area 4: Special Places and Settings

9. What are the qualities of your selected SRMA in the Butte Field Office that makes it a special place for you?

10. What are the qualities of the area you identified in the previous question that make it a special place for you? (Choose up to 5)

- a. It's my back yard
- b. It's where I spend quality time with friends and family
- c. Historic qualities - how previous generations used the area
- d. Productive qualities - grazing and hunting
- e. Biological resources - plants, animals, etc.
- f. Physical resources - geology, paleontology, etc.
- g. Cultural resources - archeology, etc.
- h. Scenic quality
- i. Spiritual and/or religious qualities
- j. Sense of freedom
- k. Wild, unspoiled, and natural
- l. Remote and rugged
- m. Sense of solitude and privacy
- n. Natural quietness
- o. Dark night skies
- p. Sense of discovery/learning opportunities
- q. Dogs and/or horses are allowed
- r. Lack of development or improvements
- s. It's where I engage in recreational activities I enjoy
- t. Lewis and Clark Trail
- u. Nez Pierce National Historic Trail
- v. Recreational developments or improvements (e.g. vault toilets, picnic areas, etc.)
- w. Other

11. What could diminish the specialness of the place for you?

12. What could diminish the specialness of the area for you? (Choose up to 5)

1. Additional fees, permits, or restrictions
2. Increased use and crowding
3. Group size limits I consider to be inappropriate (too high or too low)
4. Limitations on historic uses and productive qualities
5. Additional facilities and improvements
6. Lack of facilities and improvements
7. Increased access
8. Limited access
9. Vandalism, litter, graffiti, and/or human waste
10. Damage to soils and vegetation
11. Lack of solitude and privacy
12. Noise
13. Artificial light
14. Livestock or evidence of them
15. Culture clashes – locals vs. visitors or long-time locals vs. move-ins
16. Lack of connection to or education about place
17. Residential or industrial development (utility lines, pipelines, etc.)
18. Other

### **Topic Area 5: Use Change and impact**

13. At the places you enjoy visiting in your selected SRMA in the Butte Field Office has use increased or decreased in the last five (5) years?
  - a. Strongly Decreased
  - b. Slightly Decreased
  - c. No Change
  - d. Slightly Increased
  - e. Strongly Increased
  
14. If use at that these places has changed in the last five (5) years, has it been for the better or worse? Why did you choose as you did?
  - a. Much worse
  - b. Somewhat worse
  - c. No change
  - d. Somewhat better
  - e. Much better

## Topic Area 6: Recreation Benefits, Activities and Services

15. When visiting the area you identified as your favorite SRMA, which of the following **personal benefits** are most important to you? (Choose up to 4)

- a. Restored my mind from stress/tension/anxiety
- b. Improved physical fitness
- c. To improve/maintain health
- d. Increase work productivity
- e. Improved outdoor knowledge
- f. Greater self-reliance
- g. Enhance sense of personal freedom
- h. Improved sense of control over my life
- i. Improved self-confidence
- j. Spiritual growth
- k. Living a more outdoor-oriented lifestyle
- l. Restored my body from fatigue
- m. Greater appreciation for our cultural heritage
- n. Greater awareness and appreciation of natural landscapes
- o. Greater understanding of the importance of wildlife to my quality of life
- p. Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature's art, and its beauty
- q. Learning about and connection to history and heritage
- r. Greater understanding of the Core of Discovery expedition
- s. Other



16. When visiting the SRMA you identified, which of the following **household and relational benefits** are most important to you?  
(Choose up to 4)

- a. Strengthened relationships with family and/or friends
- b. Improved physical and/or mental health
- c. Greater recreation opportunities for your family
- d. Greater Recreation skills for my family
- e. Greater freedom from urban living
- f. Closer relationship to the natural world
- g. More well-rounded development for our children
- h. Improved parenting skills
- i. Lifestyle improvement or maintenance
- j. Greater appreciation of cultures other than my own
- k. Greater awareness of methods to minimize recreation impacts
- l. Other

17. When visiting the SRMA you identified, which of the following **community and environmental benefits** are most important to you?

(Choose 4)

- a. Improved desirability as a place to live
- b. Greater community engagement in recreating on public lands
- c. Maintenance/preservation of distinctive community atmosphere
- d. Heightened sense of community pride
- e. Greater protection of area historic structures and archaeological sites
- f. Heightened sense of community satisfaction
- g. Improved respect for privately-owned lands
- h. Increased awareness and protection of natural landscapes
- i. Greater community stewardship of recreation and natural resources
- j. Greater protection of fish, wildlife, and plant habitat from growth, development, and public use impacts
- k. Increased local job opportunities
- l. Maintenance/preservation of distinctive public land recreation setting character
- m. Increased local tourism revenue
- n. Reduced local health maintenance costs
- o. Conservation of entire ecosystem
- p. Other

18. When visiting the SRMA you have been describing so far, what **activities** do you engage in most often? (Choose up to 3)

- a. Raft/canoe/kayak
- b. Tubing
- c. Power boating
- d. Fishing
- e. Swimming
- f. Camping
- g. Picnicking
- h. Spending time with friends and family
- i. Partying
- j. Driving and sightseeing
- k. Hiking/walking
- l. Photography
- m. Watching wildlife
- n. Bird watching
- o. Solitude
- p. Relax/escape everyday stress
- q. Night sky viewing
- r. Landscape viewing
- s. Hunting - big game
- t. Hunting - water fowl
- u. Hunting - other
- v. Viewing cultural sites
- w. Off Highway Vehicles
- x. Rock Climbing
- y. Other

19. Which **sources of information** do you depend upon to plan your recreation in the area? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Friends and family
- b. Past experience
- c. Area business owners
- d. Area residents
- e. Visitor Center staff
- f. Contact with park rangers in the field
- g. Visitor Center exhibits
- h. On-Site signage, kiosks, bulletin boards
- i. Travel and tourism councils and associations
- j. Free guides and maps
- k. Guidebooks
- l. Websites (.gov)
- m. Websites (.org or .com)
- n. Digital apps
- o. Historic references
- p. Maps (topographic, National Geographic, etc.)
- q. Other

20. What services do you depend on to have a successful recreational experience? (Choose all that apply.)

- a. Gas stations
- b. Gear stores
- c. Grocery stores
- d. Lodging (hotels, B&B's, etc.)
- e. Outfitters/guides
- f. RV parks/campgrounds
- g. Restaurants
- h. Visitor information
- i. Wireless/cellular coverage
- j. Other

21. Are there services that are missing and prevent you from having a successful experience? Why?

### **Topic Area 7: Barriers or Constraints to Recreational Use of Lands**

22. Check all the factors that keep you from coming to or recreating in the UMRBNM area more often? (please circle all that apply)

- a. Not enough time
- b. Family obligations
- c. Not enough energy
- d. Having no one to go with
- e. You or family members have been in poor health
- f. Not interested in outdoor recreational activities
- g. Pursue recreation elsewhere
- h. Fear of physical assault
- i. Fear of crime
- j. Feeling unwelcome
- k. Fear of racial conflict
- l. Location is too far away
- m. This area does not offer activities I want
- n. Not enough money
- o. Not enough lighting
- p. Sites are too crowded
- q. Lack of transportation to sites
- r. Lack of information (e.g., about trails, allowed uses)
- s. Poor weather
- t. Lack of ADA compliant trails
- u. None of these are factors that keep me from visiting the BLM Butte Field Office lands
- v. Other

23. What policies, improvements to lands managed by the Butte Field Office, or other actions by land management agencies, government, or local organizations could improve your or your communities' experience of outdoor recreation or use of outdoor spaces in this area?

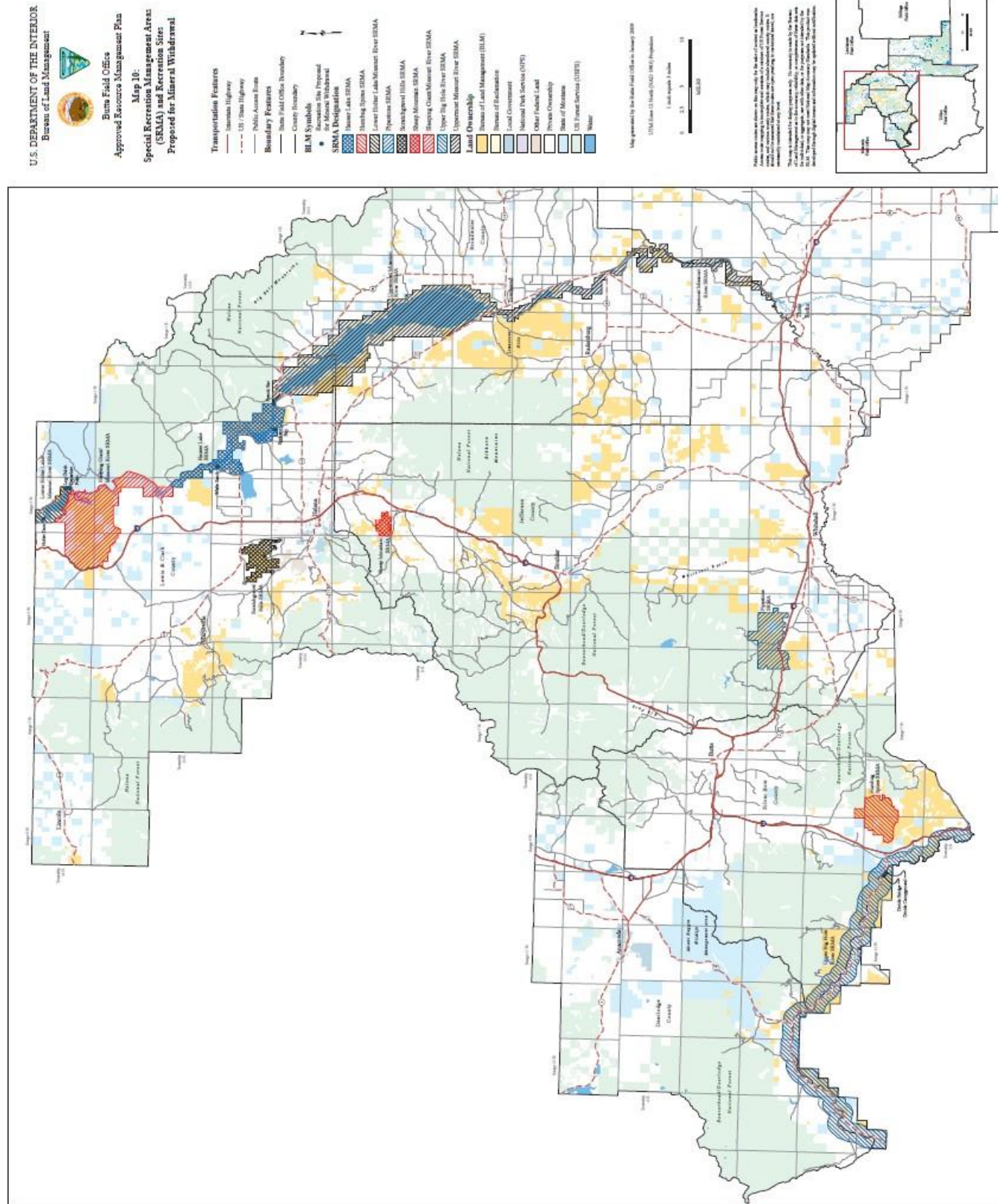
*We appreciate your involvement in this important focus group.*

*Your input is an important part of maintaining an ongoing inventory of our recreational users' preferences, expectations, and concerns.*

**Thank you very much!**

Dr. Tim Casey  
Colorado Mesa University and Public Lands Recreation Research Partnership  
1100 North Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501  
(970) 248-1095 or [nrc@coloradomesa.edu](mailto:nrc@coloradomesa.edu)

# Appendix 1: SRMA Map



## Appendix 2: Butte Field Office 2023 Coded Focus Group Comments

### Management

- Sustainable mgt and direction for land use. Recreation, development, and commodity use.
- Manage according to existing RMP.
- Focus on adaptive management as circumstances on our public lands change. Especially with the dramatic increase in usage.
- Better management of Pipestone
- overall management
- Manage according to the current plan.
- Yes, BLM manages large acreages and has large annual budgets.
- Brad is a great manager.
- I live and retired in this area as a result of the quality of life presented by the public lands. Economic support, openness and ability to use. with good management direction.
- Regional district BLM needs to provide more funding to Butte Field Office
- For the most part I think the Butte BLM does a good job. I think the F/S is the problem. Opening more trails to match the population use.
- The public would tolerate fees in exchange for better management.
- “Brad Colins is a great manager”.
- Consider fee use areas to fund management if it is not in the budget.
- District and state office to give more resources to the field office to do the work.
- Expansion of public lands – but should wait until we take care of what we have already.
- Forest plan for BLM
- Lawsuits prevent proper needed management.

### Management - Boundaries

- Use OnX app to track boundaries.

- often doesn't change perception.
- Most of the time I am not aware of the boundaries, but if I am aware of what type of land I'm in it might change my behaviors depending on new regulations.
- I rarely know the difference between who's land I'm on, however if I did, I don't believe I would make much of a change on what I do as I believe my actions aren't very abrasive.
- Yes. Know regulations and use ethics of both public and private lands. Respect for land (whether public or private) boundaries, etc. Treat those lands all the same.
- Are you kidding- nobody pays attention to any of this. They go to ride and could care less about politics.
- Do not know.
- Paying attention to signage delegation boundaries
- In pipestone area it seems apparent
- Yes, not much difference, respect everyone's trails/lands.
- Some boundaries are hard to decipher. GPS is definitely you're friend
- Don't always know where they are.
- No idea when boundaries change
- Rules change with boundaries.
- Yes, I am aware, but it doesn't change anything
- Activity dependent – hunting I have to be aware of boundaries.

#### Management – Interagency Cooperation

- Relationship between BLM and USFS (especially around Pipestone)
- Fire management – interagency cooperation.
- BLM and USFS need to work together.
- Standardize use policy be consistent crossing BLM to US Forest does not influence my use.
- No, only on GPS. No signage. But the numbering system is different in USFS



- USFS and BLM need a cooperative management agreement for Pipestone.
- Differing laws and regs
- Yes. By self education recreate according to land management, the protocols, differ between agencies.
- I find that BLM and FS tend to be inconsistent. It would be great to see cooperation.
- Generally, not at all. I see some boundary signs but they are usually old and shot up and i know from experience people move these signs to cut public use off. Generally I know public lands but mostly not difference between Fs and BLM or state lands.
- Interagency cooperation could make it easy to move between differently managed landscapes.
- Pipestone – BLM manages well, Trails cross boundaries, active management by USFS does not exist.
- Inconsistency between BLM and USFS – need interagency cooperation especially for Pipestone area.
- More interagency cooperation on defining boundaries, especially when there is snow on the ground.
- USFS is uninvolved.
- The BLM and USFS are not present on the landscape (negative)
- Forest Service trails are planned, BLM trails seem like unplanned social trails.
- The Elkhorns are a nationally recognized wildlife area and administration is coordinated between the FS, BLM, State, NRCS for consistency and support. It is critical that this coordination be enhanced.
- Appreciate relationship between BLM and County
- Lack of BLM active participation as a full partner in management participation with the other agency neighbors. Uncontrolled or loss of off-road control enforcement, loss of campsite use and uncontrolled trail use.
- Better interagency info on permits for events
- People who are not engaged in outdoor rec don't have a clue what the BLM is, what it does, what the land is. Butte office needs way more public info efforts. A lot of confusion with USFS, DNRC, etc.

- Area do not travel management on USFS.
- Increased communication with other land-managing public agencies, especially USFS. BLM does a great job at managing lands by comparison and the USFS could learn a lot- People do not like closure.
- Give this recording to forest service/FWP.
- For the most part I think the Butte BLM does a good job. I think the F/S is the problem. Opening more trails to match the population use.
- Forest service being more involved.
- Example: East Fork Rock in Oregon is managed cooperatively between BLM and USFS as a system – could be a model for shared management in this field office – especially Pipestone
- Interface between BLM and USFS – big disparity of resources to do work.
- Interagency cooperation needs to increase (eg. Tizer Basin and Lesley Lake in the Elkhorns – lack of maintenance of access especially on USFS roads)
- Interagency cooperation

### Management - Staffing

- Be present in the field. Show the public that you are managing the land.
- Listen to staff about OHV access and problems.
- More people on the ground
- More intensive oversight of seasonal employees and the decisions they make in managing rec sites.
- Need more of a presence. Sometimes I feel like no one is around managing these areas.
- The BLM is largely not visible nor present in the Townsend, Broadwater County public view. Coming to a commissioners meeting once a year does not profile the BLM in the public arena here.
- USA Jobs – difficult to navigate and to pair outdoor folks with jobs.
- Tech students could have a night at the university to direct them to seasonal jobs with BLM.

- Spatial Scale of area means you need to rely on seasonal help. BLM needs more professional full time staff on patrol, getting out of the truck or off the ATV to talk to people
- Active patrolling will help see problems early, keep trash at bay and offer a presence of the BLM in the field.

### Management - Safety

- Sport shooting areas-designated for safety
- My biggest priority would be safety, and my second largest priority would probably be sanitation and pollution control.
- Visitor safety
- Public safety RE: Firearms
- The safe and lawful use of BLM land. Along with this, the efficient utilization of this land. Creating trails that promote shared use along with the education on how to use these trails is very important.
- More trail safety
- Trail safety education
- Signage for trail safety
- Safety of activities: Shooting areas, alcohol use on trails
- Fire risk management: Deferral practices, easy egress
- Public safety
- Safety education (i.e. avalanche safety and trail etiquette), could be offered as a course through partnerships.
- Enjoying the outdoors with our families, safely. Side by side and drinking has challenged this. Would like everyone to have equal opportunity to recreate to their own liking safely.
- Safe, hardworking, sense of community
- Being a landowner in pipestone. It is an incredibly special place to me, my family, and friends. Everyone being able to safely recreate is critical to preserving this. Please designate single track usage so I don't have to see a child get on a head on with a side by side with a drunk driver. Keep open for all but in a safe, long term manner. Regulate camping (Space, length of stay). Litter. Trail use. Respect of private land.

- Pipestone – recreating with family and friends on trails – safety is important.
- Too many people and dogs are not allowed. My dog is an incredibly important part of outdoor rec for me for reasons such as safety and emotional fulfillment.
- Keeping the area(s) safe, I am not referring to wildlife, just idiots.
- People who do not know where to go or how to operate rental machines – a safety issue (education is solution)
- No course available for safety riding – safety is needed to pass our sport on to our kids.
- Personal safety is other reason for diminishing specialness.
- Enjoy sense of community but causing crowding/ safety incidents

#### Management – Non-recreation resources

- Increased natural resource extraction like fire wood (n)
- Firewood cutting

#### Management – Non-recreation resources – Fire Management

- Fire management
- Dead trees to reduce fire risk.
- Fire management – interagency cooperation
- Land use for resources (firewood)
- Safe from fire because of active agency efforts
- Fire
- Fire
- Forest fire
- Forest fires
- Forest fires and uncleared brush
- Forest fire

#### Management – Non-recreation resources – Noxious Weeds

- Noxious weed management

- Noxious weed control
- Management of noxious weeds
- Noxious Weeds

#### Management – Non-recreation resources – Grazing Livestock and Ranching

- Grazing supports neighbors and open spaces
- Unmanaged and wide-open access and use by any and all for all activities. Allowing activities that negatively impact the resource- land, water, wildlife, irresponsible development activities (Poor mining and grazing) overdevelopment for recreation that changes the quality of the resource and user experience.
- Irresponsible development – grazing and mining.
- When ranches go out of business the land gets locked up

#### Management – Non-recreation Resources – Oil, Gas and Mining

- No extractive industries
- Unmanaged and wide-open access and use by any and all for all activities. Allowing activities that negatively impact the resource- land, water, wildlife, irresponsible development activities (Poor mining and grazing) overdevelopment for recreation that changes the quality of the resource and user experience.
- Irresponsible development – grazing and mining.
- Special qualities – other – abandon mines are cultural resources.

#### Management - Public

- A senator once described public lands as the last defense against the country becoming an all-out penal colony.

#### Management- Public- Transparency and Participation in Planning Process

- Provide transparency through phases of project planning.
- Communication in advance of any potential changes to policy or access.
- Be more responsive to public concerns.
- More of the same... thanks for taking in all our ideas. We care about these communities and these places.

- BLM is more open, forgiving, friendly and receptive to motorized use.

### Management – Public – Public Relations

- Be present in the field. Show the public that you are managing the land.
- Being present to the community
- I am aware of the different land designations, but really only in the last 6 years. It would be beneficial to know who represents which area. I would love to have the opportunity to know who is who and how to contact.
- The BLM and USFS are not present on the landscape (negative)
- Greater publicity of the BLM what it is, what it does, what BLM lands are, and intentions of that use.
- Contact info at parking areas for reporting maintenance issues or invasive species.
- Presence of BLM at/on the lands it manages around Helena (rangers, signage)
- People who are not engaged in outdoor rec don't have a clue what the BLM is, what it does, what the land is. Butte office needs way more public info efforts. A lot of confusion with USFS, DNRC, etc.
- Need more of a presence. Sometimes I feel like no one is around managing these areas.
- The BLM is largely not visible nor present in the Townsend, Broadwater County public view. Coming to a commissioners' meeting once a year does not profile the BLM in the public arena here.
- It would help to have a quarterly or bi-monthly presence to just hold public Q and A sessions to squelch rumors and misinform being passed around locally about use and BLM management.

### Management – Public - Equality

- Equal use for all
- Lands inclusive as a policy rather than being exclusive.
- Digital maps are helpful, but not all have these tools.
- Makes access more difficult since one has to pay for OnX.

- Larger amounts of motorized access with smaller population density. Especially beneficial for people with limited mobility to access
- It's beautiful, there's a wide variety of ways to recreate. It's accessible to all.
- Enjoying the outdoors with our families, safely. Side by side and drinking has challenged this. Would like everyone to have equal opportunity to recreate to their own liking safely.
- Year round recreational opportunities for lots of uses
- Everyone gets a chance to use the land.
- Public lands means freedom – they are everybody's place
- Connecting with family on larger remote pieces of land. Without the public land, few families would be able to afford these types of get-togethers.
- This is critical to quality of life. Open trail use for all.
- Money changed access on land.
- Public land is available to all.
- Limiting access for motorized vehicles, which in turn limits access for those with mobility issues.
- Exorbitant fees hurt equality of access.
- Allowing class 1 (pedal assist) e-bikes on trails. Per DOT- not a motorized vehicle; classified as a bike. E-bike a great equalizer and allows stronger riders to enjoy riding with weaker riders. Example 1) is my wife and I. 2) my 50 year old son- I (I'm 76) e-bike allows a compatible ride. Closing notes- 1) e-bikes are quiet and emit no exhaust or fumes. 2) even though I'm ADA allowed to ride, but this privileged should not be an exception.
- Special interest groups only interested in themselves.
- Camping over 14 days does not apply to some (n)

### Management – Multi -use

- Ecological diversity to better satisfy the multiple use standard.
- Multi-use recreation and multi-use trails (not all trails need to include all, but focus should be on diversity) Also, I realize this is counter but not just having free-for-all use, still prioritizing preservation, and conservation. Not sure what that balance is.

- Sustainable mgt and direction for land use. Recreation, development, and commodity use.
- Access multiple use based on property of use for maximizing protection of resources.
- Promote shared use.
- Shared use trail
- Encouraged shared use for all- no OHV restrictions.
- Keeping shared use open
- Shared use
- Keeping it shared use
- Promote multiple use.
- Balanced use of BLM lands being resource use like grazing and forest vegetation management, road use conditions, campgrounds and off-road use management, wildlife habitat, trails use, especially mountain bike use.
- Shared use-multiple use
- I really appreciate the balance of mixed use, through specific trails for certain vehicle types and grazing/range land for ranchers.
- exploring open trails that are multi-use.
- Multiuser-multiuse balance in Pipestone
- Accessibility and diversity and the development of new trails. I see bikers, hikers, runners, and equestrian use. I love to see this. I just want to avoid user conflict and designate specific trails to specific user groups. I'm also happy to see over the course of six years how the land has been cleaned-up
- Use of all types
- It's so open to any type of recreational use.
- Multi-use – Trail running, Mountain Biking, Cross Country skiing.
- Unmanaged and wide-open access and use by any and all for all activities. Allowing of activities that negatively impact the resource- land, water, wildlife, irresponsible development activities (Poor mining and grazing) overdevelopment for recreation that changes the quality of the resource and user experience.



- Lack of full use
- Law enforcement, designated share use, respect of private lands

### Management - Infrastructure

- Infrastructure maintenance
- Infrastructure
- Water Bars
- Infrastructure to support recreation (signage, maps, toilets, etc.)
- Impact on county roads – maintenance costs
- Need expansion of campgrounds
- “Duky” bridge infrastructure – more roads
- Delmo Lake and 4 corners offer picnic tables and toilets.
- Good roads for access
- Copper City bike park is great but increases need for search and rescue and road needs ambulance access.
- Overuse w/o proper infrastructure (for the size)
- Pipestone - Overcrowded, well-known, Lack of infrastructure to handle crowds.
- Road Quality
- Lack of facilities were a problem in the past, but better now.
- Trailheads
- Parking with pit latrines
- Hmm. I think just hours or days of operation. I don’t get why some facilities are completely closed on Sunday, when a lot of folks are out trying to recreate.
- Road maintenance to campground
- Loading/Unloading ramps.
- Wash stations
- Potable waters across sites

- Mechanical pump for potable water
- Cell service and helipad at Copper City Bike trail
- Infrastructure for rock climbing areas
- Butte FO needs infrastructure funds to support some of these SRMA areas- the agency is inviting users to those areas and there are responsibilities associated with that.
- Infrastructure projects – road maintenance – funding should be increased to do all this.
- Other services used – Trailheads/parking with pit latrines.

### Management - Maintenance

- Recreation support and maintenance
- Infrastructure maintenance
- Roads maintained.
- Impact on roads
- Sustainable growth through continued education and community involvement. Prioritize development of new trails and updating signage/information on existing trails.
- Trail maintenance
- Maintaining single tracks
- Increase trail maintenance.
- Trail upkeep
- Trail maintenance
- Additional trails at Pipestone – clear trails that are already there to make access easier.
- Grade the road to Pipestone.
- Impact on county roads – maintenance costs
- Increased trail maintenance
- Infrastructure maintenance

- If the trails are poorly managed. Many of the trails in Montana are seeing more use. If they are poorly managed they will inevitably close.
- Lack of trail maintenance
- Thank you to partners who maintain trails.
- Trail Maintenance
- Contact info at parking areas for reporting maintenance issues or invasive species.
- I think having Keith Curtis pay for the road maintenance and require his customers to take a class first.
- Please gravel the road more than 2x a year.
- Improve and open more trails.
- Increase funding for recreation programs that clean up campgrounds.
- Expansion of public lands – but should wait until we take care of what we have already.
- Partnerships needed to help enforcement, maintenance, etc.

### Management - Recreation

- Recreation support and maintenance
- TH's
- They are extremely important! Not enough opportunities!
- Overdevelopment, from both buildings and too much recreation
- Like the new focus on recreation development but should consider impact on previous recreation experiences – remoteness is often lost.
- Better – gives folks a place to recreate.
- Recognize that when it comes to recreation, often less is more. Recreation has adverse effects to wildlife. Protect, steward wildlife, water quality and other natural resources.

### Management – Recreation – Diversity of Recreation

- Variety of recreation opportunities
- Loop trails

- A variety of recreation opportunities
- Very diverse recreational opportunities. The ability to go from the lake to the mountains in the same day.
- Wide range of recreation opportunities (rafting, hunting, motorized recreation, hiking)
- Variety of opportunities
- Variety of landscapes creates a variety of recreational opportunities.
- Snowmobile in am, then golf in pm
- Breadth of recreational opportunities
- On the plus side, again, accessibility and diversity
- Diverse

### Management – Travel Management

- As far as recreation goes focus more on non-motorized, non-mechanized recreation, but with the understanding that intensive recreation of any kind has serious impacts on wildlife...
- OHV management
- Allowing class 1 e-bikes; decision maker should ride e-bike before excluding.
- Allow e-bike to use any place bikes are allowed. Any decision maker should ride a class 1 e-bike uphill, downhill, and on the flats before they would be excluded from an area bikes are allowed.
- Designation of trails- ie. Single track use vs side by side to allow for safe shared use
- Equal access for e-bikes (type 1)
- No e-biking
- White River area - Firebreak causes road confusion.
- OHV use disregards land use designations and ride wherever they want. Including trespass of private lands. Creating conflicts and environment consequences
- Are you kidding- nobody pays attention to any of this. They go to ride and could care less about politics

- Slowing down for private property or slowing down for range land
- Slower speeds over easements
- Interagency cooperation could make it easy to move between differently managed landscapes.
- OHVs should slow down on private land and range land.
- Don't change use – let us go where it is legal to go.
- Signage on trail difficulties and vehicle access
- The access. I drive full size 4x4 and Butte is the closest area to me since Bozeman has closed many trails
- Lots of motorized trails – can take elderly and handicapped to share landscape.
- Agencies use closure to manage lands (negative)
- Motorized access disturbs peace for non-motorized users.
- Bad- motorized use riders are a huge frustration.
- Off-roading is my primary form of recreation. If it were to be restricted, I would leave the area
- Closures have huge impacts having to travel for open trails.
- OHV use on trails adjacent to neighbor's property often use that property as additional trail. They need to stay on designated public trails
- ATVs too fast – they have no respect and we (locals) have no recourse.
- No artificial restricted width
- They are more open to keeping trails open and not managing by closure.
- Sheep Mountain – OHV designation draws lots of people.
- Too many high-speed boats
- OHV, specifically moto and ATV going off designated routes and damaged land.
- E-bikes do not go faster downhill than traditional mtn bike.
- How do e-bikes fit into this – they can cause as much erosion as a dirt bike

- A combination of proximity to urban areas and dry climate – people are tempted to use OHVs in damaging ways.
- I think that speed limit signs should be utilized. I also believe that trails should be named and have proper designation should be made clear.
- Use has significantly increased, making it somewhat worse because people are being pigs, not respecting the land, tearing it up, UTVs and ATVs going off-trail.
- Could pipestone be an open OHV riding area? No designated routes? Too many trails to manage.
- Area do not travel management on USFS.
- I think having Keith Curtis pay for the road maintenance and require his customers to take a class first.
- Other-heavy use of roads and heavy dust from them
- Road use is a biggie.
- BLM is more open, forgiving, friendly and receptive to motorized use.
- Scratch Gravel – fencing to keep people on trails and off private land.
- Renegade riders going off trail – non-profits could offer rewards to report bad behavior.
- Moto and ATV is much worse. 1) lack of rules enforcement 2)Lack of proper signage to stay on designated routes (n)
- Other barriers - Restrictions on trail use

#### Management – Travel Management - Trails

- Walking and biking trails.
- Trails
- TH's
- Trailhead improvements-toilet facilities and signage
- Need more single track in pipestone.
- Not closing any trails. If anything we need more trails due to recent popularity

- Sustainable growth- new trails, more expert 4x4 trails, specialized trails for each category of transportation
- Sustainable growth through continued education and community involvement. Prioritize development of new trails and updating signage/information on existing trails.
- The safe and lawful use of BLM land. Along with this, the efficient utilization of this land. Creating trails that promote shared use along with the education on how to use these trails is very important.
- More trail loop.
- Prospective new trails?
- Open more motorized use trails
- Additional trails at Pipestone – clear trails that are already there to make access easier.
- Expand trail system.
- New trails
- More available trails
- exploring open trails that are multi-use.
- Butte has more trails OPEN.
- I'm supposed to say how it's enriching but I'm affected by the overuse and things like riding off-trail, reducing vegetation, and generally tearing up the land.
- More trails- more fun
- This is critical to quality of life. Open trail use for all.
- Social trails make me mad.
- Forest Service trails are planned, BLM trails seem like unplanned social trails.
- Excellent trails
- Great hiking trails
- Scratch Gravel bike trails
- I live adjacent to it. It is no longer special at all with the new trail system decision!! Big mistake.

- Good system trails
- Quality trail system
- The diversity in the landscape and the quality of the trails is good.
- Camping trails
- Quality trail system
- Overdevelopment that may restrict access (housing, etc.) or too many trails.
- It is diminished with the new trail density planned.
- Trail poaching
- less trails
- More trails for side-by-sides
- Density of Trails
- Trail access from Lake Delmoe to the trail system
- More trails
- More trails!!!
- Connect Whitehall to Pipestone
- Increased and worse because people are poaching in new trails.
- Increased side-by-side use changes the size of the trails (still good because it is motorized use)
- Better trail workings
- Trails
- Add new areas of trails for motorized use.
- For the most part I think the Butte BLM does a good job. I think the F/S is the problem. Opening more trails to match the population use.
- Improve and open more trails.
- Partnerships to help build trails.
- Special qualities – other – Trail system
- Density of trails user created trails (n)



- Too many people and not enough trails (n)
- Need to open more trails (n)
- There are a lot of people in the Pipestone area. We need more trails to disperse users.
- Need to open more trails so we can disburse more.

### Management – Travel management – Trails – Diversity of Trails

- Sustainable growth- new trails, more expert 4x4 trails, specialized trails for each category of transportation
- One-way trails
- Loop trails
- Loop trails
- Loop trails
- Full size motorized, challenging trails
- Pipestone – open more trails with varying difficulty levels.
- Some trails were single use, so they decrease conflict.
- Pipestone – variety of OHV opportunities
- The diversity of the trails (I like that they feel a little rugged and wild compared to the South Hills trails)
- The different trailheads that all connect.
- Accessibility and diversity and the development of new trails. I see bikers, hikers, runners, and equestrian use. I love to see this. I just want to avoid user conflict and designate specific trails to specific user groups. I'm also happy to see over the course of six years how the land has been cleaned-up
- Large amounts of available trails
- Availability of different difficulties. I would love more difficult trails, but there still is some that you can challenge your skills on.
- Varied riding trails, camping opportunities, all weather use.

- The range of trails and the variety of obstacles. The terrain and views are amazing. I have many family memories there and many more I look forward to making.
- Variety of trails for entire family
- Development, i.e. making trails easier for broader range of users- I like being challenged and putting my skills to the test.
- Too many trails, trying to cater to too many people in one place.
- OHV Dirt bike track like Hungry Horse
- Do more directional trails.
- Designate some trails for young children that are only one-way loops.
- Strictly dirt bike use trail
- New trail maintenance to develop harder OHV trails, one-way trails, loop trails, signage.
- OHV Dirt bike track like Hungry Horse
- I would like more full-size vehicle hardcore jeep trails in the area. I would frequent the area more frequently if these were added.
- Directional trails can be helpful.
- Increase single-track in Pipestone.
- Not enough full-size difficult trails is a barrier to recreation
- Looking for full size challenge trails

#### Management – Travel Management - Access

- Access
- Strong support of equality of access for type 1 EMTB's
- Lands inclusive as a policy rather than being exclusive.
- No closure of trails motorized.
- Open more areas to motorized decrease pipestone population.
- Not closing any trails. If anything we need more trails due to recent popularity

- Keep trails open to SxS, motorcycles, and H-wheelers. Do not let conservation groups shut down trails and turn areas into quiet zones.
- Keeping it open
- Local access kept open.
- Access
- Keep the current land healthy and keep up access.
- Keeping shared use open
- Open gates rather than closing
- Keeping trails open for dirt biking, mountain biking, camping.
- Scouting out new areas/accessible
- Stop shutting down motorized use.
- Open more motorized use trails
- Access and restrictions to access
- Negotiate rights-of-way when private land impedes.
- Listen to staff about OHV access and problems.
- Inclusive vs. exclusive use – give class 1 e-bikes access.
- Keep it open – especially Pipestone for side by side.
- Access
- Make it accessible.
- White River area – Gates not open during snow time
- Yes, I am aware of boundaries and various jurisdictions. Access to isolated parcels is important.
- Generally, not at all. I see some boundary signs but they are usually old and shot up and i know from experience people move these signs to cut public use off. Generally I know public lands but mostly not difference between Fs and BLM or state lands.
- Makes access more difficult since one has to pay for OnX.
- Need easements for land-locked parcels.

- Access to all makes it better for all. Benefits communities, and helps people enjoy life.
- The amount of private land is becoming more and more. It's nice to have the ability to access these public lands
- Smith River Permit system decreases access.
- Accessibility and diversity and the development of new trails. I see bikers, hikers, runners, and equestrian use. I love to see this. I just want to avoid user conflict and designate specific trails to specific user groups. I'm also happy to see over the course of six years how the land has been cleaned-up
- Open trails
- Good roads for access
- Not coming across width restriction gates everywhere. I can still take my full size jeep on trails there. More jeep trails would be ideal
- Open trails
- Being a landowner in pipestone. It is an incredibly special place to me, my family, and friends. Everyone being able to safely recreate is critical to preserving this. Please designate single track usage so I don't have to see a child get on a head on with a side by side with a drunk driver. Keep open for all but in a safe, long term manner. Regulate camping (Space, length of stay). Litter. Trail use. Respect of private land.
- Nice camping/lake access
- No artificial restrictions – pinch points; USFS does this – regulations for the sake of regulations
- It is not all locked up.
- Too much motorized vehicle access
- Restricting access for dogs
- Overdevelopment that may restrict access (housing, etc.) or too many trails.
- Too many people and dogs are not allowed. My dog is an incredibly important part of outdoor rec for me for reasons such as safety and emotional fulfillment.
- Restricting e-bikes from Scratch Gravel

- Precluding the use of my e-bike on the trails. E-bikes do not degrade trails any more or differently than trailhead mtn bikes
- The fact that the new SRMA plan for Scratch Gravel restricts the use of e-bike for all users. As a minimum they should allow e-bike for aged or ADA individuals.
- Motorized- People are angry due to closures and anti-government for this reason. Keep it open!
- Closing it down
- Locked gates
- Blocking access
- Limiting access for motorized vehicles, which in turn limits access for those with mobility issues.
- Closure
- Lack of public access would kill the sentiment for me- Without access to the land for recreation in the manner which we historically do, it will no longer be utilized in a responsible manner.
- Closing trails
- Closures to currently open land
- Closing trails
- Shutting down trails
- Biggest closer of trails
- Shutting it down
- Closing it off or shutting it down/ restrictions
- Trail closures.
- More restrictions and closures
- Closures of any kind
- Road/trail closure
- Permits limit access.
- Sheep Mountain – Traffic problems – increased when BLM closed Scratch Gravel to OHV use.

- Scratch Gravel – I mountain bike there and extended my career mountain biking by buying an e-bike. Restrictions there decreased access to the area I love
- Blocked access
- Locked gates
- Closing trails
- Pipestone - Getting too crowded – open more opportunities/places to ride.
- Exorbitant fees hurt equality of access.
- White River area – 3 ranches hold most of the land in the entire valley.
- When ranches go out of business the land gets locked up
- Allow use of e-bikes on BLM trails
- Allowing class 1 (pedal assist) e-bikes on trails. Per DOT- not a motorized vehicle; classified as a bike. E-bike a great equalizer and allows stronger riders to enjoy riding with weaker riders. Example 1) is my wife and I. 2) my 50-year-old son- I (I'm 76) e-bike allows a compatible ride. Closing notes- 1) e-bikes are quiet and emit no exhaust or fumes. 2) even though I'm ADA allowed to ride, but this privileged should not be an exception.
- Allow e-bikes where bikes are permitted. All decision makers should experience class 1 e-bike before they make a use decision.
- I would like more full-size vehicle hardcore jeep trails in the area. I would frequent the area more frequently if these were added.
- Open more areas for OHV and keep the current ones open.
- Scratch Gravel SRMA - had motorized at one time (n)
- Special qualities – other – The amount of trail access
- Unlimited access of all uses, Low maintenance at developed sites, lack of enforcement of regs by agency. (n)
- Limited access because of no e-bikes (n)
- Too much use in a small area, open more areas (n)
- Too many people in area- need more space (n)
- more use makes for less chance of trail closures. For the most part I find most people are nice. But we do need more trails. (p)

## Management - Information

- Information
- Maps
- Camping limits and law enforcement
- Dissemination of information
- If informed of the intentions of the land designation, I attempt to match the goals with my own conduct.
- Hard to understand without education present at site of impact/ use, QR codes could be helpful.
- More free mapping would be nice.
- Make information accessible with QR codes.
- Updated signage or current info.
- People that are new to the area need more information on what is available and what the rules are on BLM lands.
- Better interagency info on permits for events
- Contact info at parking areas for reporting maintenance issues or invasive species.
- Having better information about recreational areas around my location
- People who are not engaged in outdoor rec don't have a clue what the BLM is, what it does, what the land is. Butte office needs way more public info efforts. A lot of confusion with USFS, DNRC, etc.
- USA Jobs – difficult to navigate and to pair outdoor folks with jobs.
- Signage with trails marked and information.

## Management – Information – Sources of Information

- Use OnX app to track boundaries.
- I rely on digital mapping to recognize boundaries, but I feel I'm probably a minority. Need signage that includes boundaries and land use rules.
- No, only on GPS. No signage. But the numbering system is different in USFS
- Education and tools such as onX

- We are aware because we pay for software that tells us but visitors and most of the public don't pay for and use that software.
- Some boundaries are hard to decipher. GPS is definitely your friend
- I use OnX hunt to be knowledgeable.
- Digital maps are helpful, but not all have these tools.
- Digital apps help
- Currently the research is on your own – OnX could help.
- Makes access more difficult since one has to pay for OnX.
- Maps- accurate
- Accurate Maps
- Would like more info in the form of signage, kiosks, free maps at kiosks, etc.
- Rarely service/cellular coverage is not needed, although helpful for digital maps.
- Maps
- COVID and Social Media attracted a lot of new visitors
- Trailhead maps that actually show the trails instead of just an area map.
- Pit toilets at ECHO and/or head lane and be signage. I'd be completely lost out there w/o Trailforks app
- maps would be local FS/BLM interagency maps also Digital use of GPS and OnX
- Trails on map are not the same as "real life" trails.
- Other information source – KTM
- Other information source – Friends of Pipestone Facebook
- Other information source – OnX
- Other information source– OnX maps/Google Earth
- Other information source– Map apps like Caltopo and Gaia
- Other information source – I just figure it out or get lost.



- Other services used - Current information about water temperature and water quality and presence of HAB's.
- Work closer with OnX to get everything in the app.

### Management – Information - Education

- Education- Gain knowledge on what to do, where not to go.
- Education- Pack it in pack it out
- Education- Tread lightly
- Outreach for education on best practices for leave no trace and trail respect. i.e. not going off trail, reducing trash, fire rings.
- Sustainable growth through continued education and community involvement. Prioritize development of new trails and updating signage/information on existing trails.
- Education... How to respect, maintain, leave better than you found it
- The safe and lawful use of BLM land. Along with this, the efficient utilization of this land. Creating trails that promote shared use along with the education on how to use these trails is very important.
- Trail education
- More education on BLM specific lands use
- Trail safety education
- Education – respect for the land
- Leave no trace principle education.
- Safety education (i.e. avalanche safety and trail etiquette), could be offered as a course through partnerships.
- Education and tools such as OnX
- Education and enforcement of private land is needed. Being a land owner in pipestone this is a huge issue with no ability to enforce.
- Teaching geography and geology as well as other life lessons
- More regulations!!! Education is awesome, regulations just lock stuff down.
- Lack of education of those using the trails (ie renters)

- People who do not know where to go or how to operate rental machines – a safety issue (education is solution)
- No course available for safety riding – safety is needed to pass our sport on to our kids.
- Education
- Education
- People not having education on leave no trace or OHV safety.
- education is hugely lacking.
- Required education.
- Keep UTV guy off the trail without education.
- Educational resources more easily available
- No, closure- education is so that people don't tear it up.
- Increased educational opportunities for LNT and trail respect.
- I think having Keith Curtis pay for the road maintenance and require his customers to take a class first.
- Increased educational resources.
- Land stewardship education
- Additional fees, permits, or restrictions could help solve many issues, especially with education.
- More people out on the trails that don't have respect or trail education, as well as more people leaving garbage everywhere (n)
- The lack of education and larger groups of people recreating has resulted in a decreased in the proper use of trails (n)
- Other services used – recreational education.

### Management – Information - Communications

- Improve communications with the public perhaps through enhanced websites.
- Communication in advance of any potential changes to policy or access.
- Making USA Jobs accessible and available

- Improving communications with public
- Website needs work.
- Communication
- Update electronic platforms.
- Have never heard of the SRMA designation.
- Website is not helpful.
- Improve online information.
- The BLM is largely not visible nor present in the Townsend, Broadwater County public view. Coming to a commissioners' meeting once a year does not profile the BLM in the public arena here.
- It would help to have a quarterly or bi-monthly presence to just hold public Q and A sessions to squelch rumors and misinform being passed around locally about use and BLM management.
- Alert folks regarding environmental degradation
- Communication – Lack of information to public on meetings or other actions
- Other barriers – Terrible and difficult to navigate website.

### Management – Law Enforcement

- Enforcement
- Be open to taking appropriate action when users are blatantly missing the resources.
- The safe and lawful use of BLM land. Along with this, the efficient utilization of this land. Creating trails that promote shared use along with the education on how to use these trails is very important.
- Law and order
- Increasing police presence- monitoring camp/days at one site
- Alcohol checks on drivers
- Camp checks for alcohol/ drivers under the influence
- LEO presence, specifically drinking and driving.
- Camping limits and law enforcement

- Safety of activities: Shooting areas, alcohol use on trails
- Law Enforcement officers – not enough officers, need to enforce regulations.
- Lack of enforcement on BLM Lands
- Law Enforcement
- Supervision because of so many visitors
- Education and enforcement of private land is needed. Being a landowner in pipestone this is a huge issue with no ability to enforce.
- ATVs too fast – they have no respect and we (locals) have no recourse.
- Lawlessness
- Lack of law and order
- Lack of BLM active participation as a full partner in management participation with the other agency neighbors. Uncontrolled or loss of off-road control enforcement, loss of campsite use and uncontrolled trail use.
- Shooting marmots for dinner – LEO issue
- Criminal activity – meth use, etc. at Pipestone
- Enforcement of regulations
- I think that speed limit signs should be utilized. I also believe that trails should be named and have proper designation should be made clear.
- LEO
- More LEO presence to help cut down on drunk driving.
- Law enforcement
- Lack of BLM enforcement at campgrounds and on river – enforcement that exists is not “fair”.
- Active patrolling
- Increased LEOs to help keep vandalism and rule breaking down.
- Law enforcement, drinking and driving.
- Increased LEO on the ground.
- Law enforcement, designated share use, respect of private lands

- Increased funding for LEOs
- More LEOs – especially in Pipestone
- Partnerships needed to help enforcement, maintenance, etc.
- Lack of rules enforcement (n)
- Moto and ATV is much worse. 1) lack of rules enforcement 2) Lack of proper signage to stay on designated routes (n)
- More people, no legal enforcement for people doing the right thing (Litter, camping damage, too many people in limited number of trails) (n)
- Concern for lack of enforcement (BLM, FWP, all) is a barrier to recreation

### Local Community and Partnerships

- Community profile and integration with various keyholders, both commercial and general public.
- Sustainable growth through continued education and community involvement. Prioritize development of new trails and updating signage/information on existing trails.
- Coordination with volunteer organizations
- Impact on county roads – maintenance costs
- Safety education (i.e. avalanche safety and trail etiquette), could be offered as a course through partnerships.
- Thriving small communities- we benefit by using them.
- Local small-town feel
- Thank you to partners who maintain trails.
- Community partnership and engagement volunteerism
- Collaboration with MTVRA volunteers
- Community action to help keep lands good.
- County partnerships
- COVID hurt the groups that help steward public lands.
- Renegade riders going off trail – non-profits could offer rewards to report bad behavior.

- Partnerships needed to help enforcement, maintenance, etc.
- BLM helps promote responsible user groups.
- Partnerships to help build trails.
- Environmental groups (n)
- Other services used – clubs

#### Local Community and Partnerships – Community Character - Housing

- Use has increased because housing is cheap compared to other states and this leads to heavier use on public lands from those moving in,
- Increased population due to COVID has also increased homeless presence on public lands

#### Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Familiarity/Relationship with Landscape

- Because I am living here, I am able to really explore it and get to know the landscape (i.e. find trails no one else knows etc.)

#### Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Lack of Development

- Remote, solitude, lack of development and dispersed recreation are part of local public lands.

#### Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Seasons/Seasonal Activity

- Different seasons
- Cold windy winters keeps people away.
- Year-round recreational opportunities for lots of uses
- In winter months it provides recreation without monetization
- Pipestone is in a rain shadow that makes it a seasonally dry area.
- Length of riding season
- Open year round! This is one of the few places in the region that the snow does not stay. Geography is unique.
- Lower density of users on weekdays

- Varied riding trails, camping opportunities, all weather use.
- Particularly in May
- Spatial Scale of area means you need to rely on seasonal help. BLM needs more professional full-time staff on patrol, getting out of the truck or off the ATV to talk to people

#### Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics - Heritage

- Mining culture of Butte
- In this area it is critical. Opportunities are huge and the predominant culture of the community is geared to the outdoors, year-round.
- Scratch Gravel history

#### Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Friendly Local Population

- Local feel
- Friendly people
- Wild people
- Tight knit community
- Safe, hardworking, sense of community
- Dynamic landscapes AND communities
- The people
- People are friendly.
- more use makes for less chance of trail closures. For the most part I find most people are nice. But we do need more trails. (p)

#### Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Economics – Affordable, Jobs, Tourism

- Affordable cost of living in Great Falls
- Open access to public lands, undisturbed general scenery of the mountains, hills, and the waterways. Economic effects from public lands, hunting fishing and recreation.
- Safe, hardworking, sense of community

- Recreation patronizes local businesses – especially motorized.
- In winter months it provides recreation without monetization
- I live and retired in this area as a result of the quality of life presented by the public lands. Economic support, openness and ability to use. with good management direction.
- Grazing supports neighbors and open spaces.
- More folks using OHV – more business – it brings people from 500 miles away to recreate.

#### Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Quiet and Peaceful

- Quiet, not over-run
- Variety of landscapes to recreate on to enjoy natural processes, serenity, dispersed recreation.
- Provides peace, quiet, see the beauty.
- Getting left alone
- Quiet, serene
- Motorized access disturbs peace for non-motorized users.
- It contributes to the quiet, scenery, and recreation opportunities of living here.

#### Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristis - Ranching

- Sustains private commercial efforts- mainly cattle ranches.
- I really appreciate the balance of mixed use, through specific trails for certain vehicle types and grazing/range land for ranchers.
- Grazing supports neighbors and open spaces.

#### Local Community Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Open Space

- Open space
- Open space allowing sense of freedom.
- Open riding space for entire family
- People are coming for open space/public lands.



- I moved here in large for the public land. I come from a state that is 97% Private.
- Public lands have very high value for my quality of life. The positive attributes afforded by open space, views, contours features of the terrain enhances my mental and physical wellbeing.
- Connecting with family on larger remote pieces of land. Without the public land, few families would be able to afford these types of get-togethers.
- The public lands and wide-open spaces are so important
- I live and retired in this area as a result of the quality of life presented by the public lands. Economic support, openness and ability to use. with good management direction.
- Grazing supports neighbors and open spaces.
- Open space

#### Local Community Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Public support/stewardship or public lands

- General public support for public lands
- Community interest and support of public lands
- Great terrain- Good trails, public/social commitment to maintaining
- If it weren't for public lands, I'd move.
- Public lands
- Support for using public lands.
- Community value of outdoor rec
- More of the same... thanks for taking in all our ideas. We care about these communities and these places.

#### Local Community Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Landscape Qualities

- Beauty of landscape
- I just recently moved here for the summer, and one thing I like about the land is how accessible the land is and how pretty it is.
- I like how healthy the public land is.
- Wildlife, fishing, and other natural opportunities.

- Great views
- Varying landscapes and diversity
- Beauty of the floral and the viewshed.
- Great views
- Scenery
- Natural landscapes
- Provides peace, quiet, see the beauty.
- It's beautiful, there's a wide variety of ways to recreate. It's accessible to all.
- Landscape
- Open access to public lands, undisturbed general scenery of the mountains, hills and the waterways. Economic effects from public lands, hunting fishing and recreation.
- Great views
- Variety of landscapes
- Dynamic landscapes AND communities
- Variety of landscapes creates a variety of recreational opportunities.
- Scenic, less transportation congestion
- It contributes to the quiet, scenery, and recreation opportunities of living here.

#### Local Community Partnerships – Community Characteristics - Freedom

- Easy, close access to public lands, wildlife, and hunting opportunities-freedom of public lands.
- Open space allowing sense of freedom.
- Freedom to recreate as we please.
- Fewer rules
- Public lands means freedom – they are everybody's place
- Freedom- I love to hunt, fish, and hike. Public lands are the place I pursue the best things in my life. Improves mental and physical health.

## Local Community Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Access/Proximity to Public Lands

- Proximity, convenience, and access to public lands
- Easy, close access to public lands, wildlife, and hunting opportunities- freedom of public lands.
- Being able to have somewhere to go. Without being a giant landowner.
- Proximity to such great public land, both in terms of quantity and quality
- Public land access
- I just recently moved here for the summer, and one thing I like about the land is how accessible the land is and how pretty it is.
- Access to wide range of recreation.
- Proximity
- Close access to BLM and USFS lands- hiking snowshoeing
- Close access
- Accessibility and diversity
- Access to public lands
- Middle of Montana-close to outdoor opportunities
- Access to public lands
- Larger amounts of motorized access with smaller population density. Especially beneficial for people with limited mobility to access
- It's beautiful, there's a wide variety of ways to recreate. It's accessible to all.
- Access to so many different types of places to recreate.
- Year-round recreation opportunities. Easy access for lots of users
- The access. I drive full size 4x4 and Butte is the closest area to me since Bozeman has closed many trails
- Given Butte is a mining town, and the destruction to the landscape, it is wonderful to know the beauty and recreational offerings are nearby and protected. I feel Butte offers the best of both the city-type feel with the mountains and waterways.

- Open access to public lands, undisturbed general scenery of the mountains, hills and the waterways. Economic effects from public lands, hunting fishing and recreation.
- Access
- Abundance of recreation opportunities close by
- Proximity to public lands, close access
- Access to public lands
- Proximity to public lands
- Out of city – can get away quickly.
- Close and convenient, easy access
- More convenient because public lands so close
- Proximity, convenience, and access to public lands
- I moved here in large for the public land. I come from a state that is 97% Private.
- As someone who moved here to be near public land, it improves my life in every way, especially when considering physical and mental wellbeing. Spending time in nature/ outdoors is one of the few scientifically proven remedies for many of these issues.
- Significantly! I use trails at a local (Helena) developed sites nearly every day. I'm a walker and these trails for exercise, bird watching, mental health.
- Proximity to public lands private
- On the plus side, again, accessibility and diversity
- I live and retired in this area as a result of the quality of life presented by the public lands. Economic support, openness and ability to use. with good management direction.
- I enjoy the Scratch Gravel because they are close to town and are usually not crowded. I enjoy hiking/ running and biking out there.
- The proximity to our house
- Because I am living here, I am able to really explore it and get to know the landscape (i.e. find trails no one else knows etc.)

- Close to my home
- Scratch Gravel, close proximity to my residence
- Proximity to city limits
- I live adjacent to it. It is no longer special at all with the new trail system decision!! Big mistake.
- I grew up recreating these areas through offroad vehicles and I met my wife while recreating there; it is incredibly nostalgic for me. It is a fantastic central location for lots of users to share, which makes it a great place to be.
- Close to multiple communities
- Centerpiece between towns
- For me it is close proximity and availability, whether it be for fishing, floating, camping or enjoying the beauty and wildlife.
- Pipestone – centerpiece for multiple communities
- Combination of proximity to urban areas and dry climate – people are tempted to use OHVs in damaging ways.

#### Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Recreation Opportunities

- Mostly quality of recreation
- You can go from the lake to the mountains in one day.
- Trails accessible easily
- Easy to maintain mental and physical health through outdoor rec.
- Access to wide range of recreation.
- Wildlife, fishing, and other natural opportunities.
- Variety of access to outdoor activities
- Trail system availability
- Opportunity to walk and bike, ebike on developed trails and roads.
- Variety of landscapes to recreate on to enjoy natural processes, serenity, dispersed recreation.

- Accessibility and diversity
- Great terrain- Good trails, public/social commitment to maintaining
- Lots of motorized trails
- Multiple riding areas
- It's beautiful, there's a wide variety of ways to recreate. It's accessible to all.
- I really appreciate the balance of mixed use, through specific trails for certain vehicle types and grazing/range land for ranchers.
- Riding dirt bikes
- I enjoy the offroad trails.
- Enjoying motor sports
- Access to so many different types of places to recreate.
- exploring open trails that are multi-use.
- Availability of outdoor recreation. Golf, e-biking, dirt biking
- Year-round recreation opportunities. Easy access for lots of users
- Year-round use
- Recreation in the outdoors and getting away from the business of life.
- Freedom to recreate as we please.
- Very diverse recreational opportunities. The ability to go from the lake to the mountains in the same day.
- Given Butte is a mining town, and the destruction to the landscape, it is wonderful to know the beauty and recreational offerings are nearby and protected. I feel Butte offers the best of both the city-type feel with the mountains and waterways.
- Abundance of recreation opportunities close by
- UTV and ATV opportunities
- Wide range of recreation opportunities (rafting, hunting, motorized recreation, hiking)
- Not having to pay for recreation access.
- Variety of opportunities

- Lots of motorized trails – can take elderly and handicap to share landscape.
- A variety of landscapes creates a variety of recreational opportunities.
- Snowmobile in am, then golf in pm
- Butte has more trails OPEN.
- Year-round recreational opportunities for lots of uses.
- Breadth of recreational opportunities
- Significantly! I use trails at a local (Helena) developed sites nearly every day. I'm a walker and these trails for exercise, bird watching, mental health.
- I live in the city limits and can hike and e-bike in both BLM and forest service properties.
- It allows us to recreate without having to own private property.
- It contributes to the quiet, scenery, and recreation opportunities of living here.

#### Local Community and Partnerships – Community Characteristics – Low Population/Uncrowded

- Lack of People
- Less saturated w/ people
- Better quality of life. Whereas people are impediments and in the way in urbanscapes, here they are far apart and a joy to spot.
- Sparsely populated.
- Quiet, not over-run
- Low population
- Larger amounts of motorized access with smaller population density. Especially beneficial for people with limited mobility to access
- Not fighting for parking
- Not crowded
- Lack of crowded space
- Lower population density

- Cold windy winters keeps people away.
- Scenic, less transportation congestion
- Low population
- Sparsely populated.
- Uncrowded open lands. The area is not overpopulated or overcrowded. I feel the public lands in and out of this BLM office give residents and non-residents the ability to enjoy, but not put the lands at risk.
- Humbug Spires – wilderness, remote, not crowded at all.
- Lack of crowds
- Uncrowded

### Local Community and Partnerships – Private Property

- Yes. Fees and activities allowed. Don't want to trespass.
- Sometimes I am aware (i.e. pay attention to public/private land)
- Yes. Know regulations and use ethics of both public and private lands. Respect for land (whether public or private) boundaries, etc. Treat those lands all the same.
- Yes, I am very aware- however typical recreationalists don't care- trespass on private, do whatever they want on BLM.
- Slowing down for private property or slowing down for range land
- Absolutely- it is critical as a public landowner that we respect private lands and tread through easement areas with caution
- Slower speeds over easements
- Education and enforcement of private land is needed. Being a land owner in pipestone this is a huge issue with no ability to enforce.
- Need to know to understand trespassing.
- OHVs should slow down on private land and range land.
- Private land is not always marked.
- Need easements for land-locked parcels.
- I moved here in large for the public land. I come from a state that is 97% Private.



- Proximity to public lands private
- It allows us to recreate without having to own private property
- The amount of private land is becoming more and more. It's nice to have the ability to access these public lands
- Being a landowner in pipestone. It is an incredibly special place to me, my family, and friends. Everyone being able to safely recreate is critical to preserving this. Please designate single track usage so I don't have to see a child get on a head on with a side by side with a drunk driver. Keep open for all but in a safe, long term manner. Regulate camping (Space, length of stay). Litter. Trail use. Respect of private land.
- Moto and ATV using BLM trails to enter my property, ignoring no trespassing signage.
- People encroach on private property.
- White River area – 3 ranches hold most of the land in the entire valley.
- Law enforcement, designated share use, respect of private lands
- Scratch Gravel – fencing to keep people on trails and off private land.
- Any sale of public lands to private owner(ship) (n)

#### Concerns/Problems – Negative Comments

- Keep trails open to SxS, motorcycles, and H-wheelers. Do not let conservation groups shut down trails and turn areas into quiet zones.
- Encouraged shared use for all- no OHV restrictions.
- I live adjacent to it. It is no longer special at all with the new trail system decision!! Big mistake.
- Overcrowding
- Being overly restrictive on use
- Lots of people/ overcrowding of infrastructure
- Too much motorized vehicle access
- People- too many
- Overcrowding
- Too many people.

- Lack of wildlife.
- Restricting access for dogs
- Overuse w/o proper infrastructure (for the size)
- Too many people and dogs are not allowed. My dog is an incredibly important part of outdoor rec for me for reasons such as safety and emotional fulfillment.
- If there was a lot of people or there was a lot of pollution.
- Too many people
- Unmanaged and wide-open access and use by any and all for all activities. Allowing of activities that negatively impact the resource- land, water, wildlife, irresponsible development activities (Poor mining and grazing) overdevelopment for recreation that changes the quality of the resource and user experience.
- More people/ visitors
- More ORV use.
- Higher user fees
- OHV, specifically moto and ATV going off designated routes and damaged land.
- Overuse
- Trash and various waste from dryland campers
- Overuse
- Precluding the use of my e-bike on the trails. E-bikes do not degrade trails any more or differently than trailhead mtn bikes
- The fact that the new SRMA plan for Scratch Gravel restricts the use of e-bike for all users. As a minimum they should allow e-bike for aged or ADA individuals.
- It is diminished with the new trail density planned.
- Making it fee-based
- Commercialization
- Rentals
- Guides

- Trail poaching
- Fire
- Closing it down
- Locked gates
- Blocking access
- Lawlessness
- Lack of full use
- Limiting access for motorized vehicles, which in turn limits access for those with mobility issues.
- Overcrowding
- Closure
- Lack of public access would kill the sentiment for me- Without access to the land for recreation in the manner which we historically do, it will no longer be utilized in a responsible manner.
- More regulations!!! Education is awesome, regulations just lock stuff down.
- If the trails are poorly managed. Many of the trails in Montana are seeing more use. If they are poorly managed, they will inevitably close.
- Restrictions
- Pricy stickers for registration tickets
- Closing trails
- Fire
- Closures to currently open land
- Fire
- Lack of trail maintenance
- Closing trails
- Lack of law and order
- Long term campers-leaving trash, over-staying the 2 weeks max
- Shutting down trails

- Lack of education of those using the trails (ie renters)
- Forest fire
- Biggest closer of trails
- Shutting it down
- Too many rules and taking away the freedom we have in pipestone.
- More restrictions
- less trails
- Forest fires
- Closing it off or shutting it down/ restrictions
- More restrictions.
- Trail closures.
- Too much government red tape
- More restrictions and closures
- Closures of any kind
- Road/trail closure
- Restrictions
- More restrictions
- Overuse and misuse.
- Trash, overuse
- Lack of BLM active participation as a full partner in management participation with the other agency neighbors. Uncontrolled or loss of off-road control enforcement, loss of campsite use and uncontrolled trail use.
- groups too large
- Overcrowding
- Shooting marmots for dinner – LEO issue
- Forest fires and uncleared brush
- More licensing and fees

- Need toilets at Pipestone.
- More trails for side-by-sides
- How do e-bikes fit into this – they can cause as much erosion as a dirt bike
- Permits limit access.
- Sheep Mountain – Traffic problems – increased when BLM closed Scratch Gravel to OHV use.
- Density of Trails
- Like the new focus on recreation development but should consider impact on previous recreation experiences – remoteness is often lost.
- People overstaying limits on length of stay rule.
- A combination of proximity to urban areas and dry climate – people are tempted to use OHVs in damaging ways.
- Blocked access
- Locked gates
- Pipestone - Overcrowded, well-known, Lack of infrastructure to handle crowds.
- Commercialization – rental machines, cabins, etc.
- Fire
- Road Quality
- Crowding
- Massive campsite at bottom of Pipestone
- Closing trails
- Forest fire
- Damage to soil and vegetation
- No course available for safety riding – safety is needed to pass our sport on to our kids.
- Pipestone - Getting too crowded – open more opportunities/places to ride.
- Too many trails, trying to cater to too many people in one place.

- Exorbitant fees hurt equality of access.
- White River area – 3 ranches hold most of the land in the entire valley.
- When ranches go out of business the land gets locked up
- Conservation leasing (negative)
- Too many people
- Overall use has increased, certain types are ok but some are unacceptable. Use of off-road types vehicles is a real challenge on driving for pleasure, now it is driving for self-defense on many days. Camping needs attention to develop more acceptable sites and not just let it happen in many cases places not good sites.
- Use has increased because housing is cheap compared to other states and this leads to heavier use on public lands from those moving in,
- Camping spots are getting busy and more played out.
- Slight increase made it worse at pipestone.
- Erosion harder to control.
- Too crowded to bring wife, kids, and grandkids there.
- Increased side-by-side use changes the size of the trails (still good because it is motorized use)
- More people has made it worse
- Trout numbers going down from overfishing.
- Lack of BLM enforcement at campgrounds and on river – enforcement that exists is not “fair”.
- Special interest groups are only interested in themselves.
- Scratch Gravel SRMA - had motorized at one time (n)
- Lack of rules enforcement (n)
- Group size limits are too low (n)
- Environmental groups (n)
- Personal safety as other reason for diminishing specialness.
- Any scale of public lands to private owner(ship) (n)
- Limited access because of no e-bikes (n)

- Pollution, invasive species, more HAB's (n)
- Group size limits are too high (n)
- Any limits on group size (n)
- Too much use in a small area, open more areas (n)
- Density of trails user created trails (n)
- Moto and ATV is much worse. 1) lack of rules enforcement 2) Lack of proper signage to stay on designated routes (n)
- Too many people and not enough trails (n)
- Too many people in area- need more space (n)
- Need to open more trails (n)
- Less space as more people come (n)
- More people, no legal enforcement for people doing the right thing (Litter, camping damage, too many people in limited number of trails) (n)
- Increase in population (n)
- Copper City – has become somewhat worse because of increased use.
- Scratch Gravel – has become somewhat better because of increased use.
- Increased natural resource extraction like firewood (n)
- More people means more people who are not educated on how to respectfully use land (n)
- Over use, especially with OHV rentals at trailheads (n)
- Need to open more trails so we can disburse more.

#### Concern/Problem – Inexperience of New Visitors

- People do not know rules and activities (visitors, not locals)
- People who do not know where to go or how to operate rental machines – a safety issue (education is solution)
- Folks new to outdoor recreation need to be more respectful.
- People not having education on leave no trace or OHV safety.
- Keep UTV guy off the trail with out education.

- People that are new to the area need more information on what is available and what the rules are on BLM lands.
- COVID and Social Media attracted a lot of new visitors
- Better marking (signage) – newbies get lost and it can be scary
- New users less considerate of existing use (n)
- More people means more people who are not educated on how to respectfully use land (n)
- Other barriers - Too many tourist with no knowledge in back country

#### Concern/Problem – Climate Change and Drought

- Combination of proximity to urban areas and dry climate – people are tempted to use OHVs in damaging ways.

#### Concern/Problem - Noise

- Noise from OHV use

#### Concern/Problem - Development

- Development
- Private land development
- Overdevelopment which could be staved off by using scenic climbing as an excuse.
- Pollution, invasive species (mussels, water weeds), more harmful algae blooms, overdevelopment along the water.
- Overdevelopment, from both buildings and too much recreation
- Overdevelopment that may restrict access (housing, etc.) or too many trails.
- Unmanaged and wide-open access and use by any and all for all activities. Allowing activities that negatively impact the resource- land, water, wildlife, irresponsible development activities (Poor mining and grazing) overdevelopment for recreation that changes the quality of the resource and user experience.
- Commercialization
- If it became overly commercialized
- Development



- Development, i.e. making trails easier for broader range of users- I like being challenged and putting my skills to the test.
- Development of private buildings or homes
- Increased development and subdivisions
- Water pollution, invasive species, algae blooms, overdevelopment on water's edge
- Irresponsible development – grazing and mining.

#### Concern/Problem – Clash between user types or locals vs. visitors

- I know "locals" do not want outsiders in their area, we have so much I hope it does infringe on the "locals".
- Accessibility and diversity and the development of new trails. I see bikers, hikers, runners, and equestrian use. I love to see this. I just want to avoid user conflict and designate specific trails to specific user groups. I'm also happy to see over the course of six years how the land has been cleaned-up
- User conflict
- user conflicts

#### Concern/Problems – Population Growth

- Population boom in Broadwater County – major challenge to provide services, lack of revenue stream
- People are coming for open space/public lands.

#### Concern/Problem - COVID

- Visitors are not always respecting the lands AND local communities – COVID was the tipping point.
- Overcrowding due to the pandemic
- Can still go outside in a pandemic.
- Increased population due to COVID has also increased homeless presence on public lands.
- COVID and Social Media attracted a lot of new visitors
- COVID hurt the groups that help steward public lands.

## Concern/Problem - Vandalism

- Generally, not at all. I see some boundary signs but they are usually old and shot up and I know from experience people move these signs to cut public use off. Generally, I know public lands but mostly not difference between Fs and BLM or state lands.
- Appreciate additional signage in Sheep Mountain (although some have already been vandalized).

## Concern/Problem – Bad Behavior by Visitors

- Some places to be alcohol free to reduce bad behavior.
- Overtime camping – people overstaying the 14-day limit.
- Yes, I am very aware- however typical recreationalists don't care- trespass on private, do whatever they want on BLM.
- OHV use disregards land use designations and ride wherever they want. Including trespass of private lands. Creating conflicts and environment consequences
- We are aware because we pay for software that tells us but visitors and most of the public don't pay for and use that software.
- Enjoying the outdoors with our families, safely. Side by side and drinking has challenged this. Would like everyone to have equal opportunity to recreate to their own liking safely.
- OHV users may be worse on rules and respect in Sheep Mountain
- Bad- motorized use riders are a huge frustration.
- I'm supposed to say how it's enriching but I'm affected by the overuse and things like riding off-trail, reducing vegetation, and generally tearing up the land.
- OHV use on trails adjacent to neighbor's property often use that property as additional trail. They need to stay on designated public trails
- Social trails make me mad.
- People that do not appreciate the land. Loud, drinking, litter
- Poor etiquette on the part of the users
- Moto and ATV using BLM trails to enter my property, ignoring no trespassing signage.

- Disregard for designated use areas by many users
- Improper use, destroying trails and surrounding land.
- Lack of public access would kill the sentiment for me- Without access to the land for recreation in the manner which we historically do, it will no longer be utilized in a responsible manner.
- Continued chaos- drinking and driving, camping anywhere and everywhere.
- Overuse and misuse.
- Keeping the area(s) safe, I am not referring to wildlife, just idiots.
- Criminal activity – meth use, etc. at Pipestone
- Teenagers partying and sniffing glue.
- People encroaching on private property.
- Inappropriate use, bad etiquette
- Other's obnoxiousness makes it difficult to enjoy my recreational experience.
- More LEO presence to help cut down on drunk driving.
- Use has significantly increased making it somewhat worse because people are being pigs, not respecting the land, tearing it up, UTVs and ATVs going off-trail
- Lots of drinking
- Increased and worse because people are poaching in new trails.
- Increased LEOs to help keep vandalism and rule breaking down.
- Use of the Elkhorns and Limestone hills does not seem to be an active management vicinity by the butte Office.
- Renegade riders going off trail – non-profits could offer reward to report bad behavior.
- Density of trails user created trails (n)
- The lack of education and larger groups of people recreating has resulted in a decreased in the proper use of trails (n)
- lots of users do not follow the rules and tread lightly (n)

## Concern/Problem – Lack of Respect for land and/or people

- Trash, Lack of Respect for Land
- Visitors are not always respecting the lands AND local communities – COVID was the tipping point.
- People don't respect each other or the landscape.
- ATVs too fast – they have no respect and we (locals) have no recourse.
- People that do not appreciate the land. Loud, drinking, litter
- Lack of respect for area
- Lack of respect for others
- Lack of consideration for others
- People not respecting the land and other riders.
- Lack of respect for the land
- Lack of respect for land and people
- Folks new to outdoor recreation need to be more respectful.
- People don't respect other people there.
- More people out on the trails that don't have respect or trail education, as well as more people leaving garbage everywhere (n)
- New users less considerate of existing use (n)
- It is far more crowded than it has been historically, with that comes the outliers that are not respectful of the land (n)
- A lot of sites near Helena are not very dog friendly and the people are mean about it (n)

## Location Specific comments

- Butte has more trails OPEN
- Delmo Lake and 4 corners offer picnic tables and toilets.
- McMaster Place – another site for horseback riding, navigation beacons and historical connections
- Various utilize both SRMA's as well as dispersed areas throughout the Butte Area. Important are areas such as wilderness study areas as well as

the ACEC in the Elkhorns which is part of the Elkhorn wildlife management unit. Also numerous BLM sites along the Missouri and Madison and Big Hole Rivers. Hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, land watching.

- Bird watching along the Missouri River – great variety.
- Canyon ferry – opportunity for cold water swimming at scale
- Trail access from Lake Delmoe to the trail system
- Nothing is missing, I like the self-reliant aspects of Wise River, Wisdom and Divide. The distance means you have to plan. IT keeps the riff-raff away (i.e. huge RVs and fair-weather campers)
- Lodging is an issue in Townsend.
- Lack of BLM enforcement at campgrounds and on river – enforcement that exists is not “fair.”
- Pit toilets at ECHO and/or head lane and be signage. I’d be completely lost out there w/o Trailforks app
- The BLM is largely not visible nor present in the Townsend, Broadwater County public view. Coming to a commissioners’ meeting once a year does not profile the BLM in the public arena here.
- Use of the Elkhorns and Limestone hills does not seem to be an active management vicinity by the butte Office.
- South Hills – Pricky pear damage – fencing is good.
- Special qualities – other – I-15, Hwy 43, other side of Jackson

#### Location specific comment - Sleeping Giant/Missouri River SRMA

- Sleeping Giant/Missouri River SRMA - had motorized at one time (n)

#### Location specific comment – Copper City

- Copper City bike park is great but increases need for search and rescue and road needs ambulance access.
- Copper city is a rattlesnake area, needs warning signs.
- Cell service and helipad at Copper City Bike trail
- Camping – dispersed or sited at Copper City
- Other lands of interest – Indian Creek and Copper City

- Copper City
- Copper City – has become somewhat worse because of increased use.

#### Location Specific Comment – BLM Lands in FO other than SRMAs

- Lands other than SRMA's: Wildlife values, hunting, hiking, solitude, dispersed camping, fishing, elkhorns management unit.
- The J area is very critical to the Elkhorns and may be a scattered response.
- The Elkhorns are a nationally recognized wildlife area and administration is coordinated between the FS, BLM, State, NRCS for consistency and support. It is critical that this coordination be enhanced.
- Other lands of interest – Indian Creek and Copper City

#### Location Specific Comment – Humbug Spires SRMA

- Humbug Spires – wilderness, remote, not crowded at all.
- Sheep Mountain, Humbug Spire and Pipestone – excellent rock-climbing

#### Location Specific Comment – Upper Big Hole SRMA

- Upper Big Hole offers close fishing and beautiful scenery.
- Various utilize both SRMA's as well as dispersed areas throughout the Butte Area. Important are areas such as wilderness study areas as well as the ACEC in the Elkhorns which is part of the Elkhorn wildlife management unit. Also numerous BLM sites along the Missouri and Madison and Big Hole Rivers. Hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, land watching.
- Upper Big Hole River SRMA – Rivan and Maiden-Float

#### Location Specific Comment – Sheep Mountain SRMA

- Appreciate additional signage in Sheep Mountain (although some have already been vandalized).
- OHV users may be worse on rules and respect in Sheep Mountain
- Sheep Mountain – geology, climbing on spires.
- Sheep Mountain – Disc golf course is heavily used.
- Sheep Mountain – lots of “normal” use

- Sheep Mountain – OHV designation draws lots of people.
- Sheep Mountain, Humbug Spire and Pipestone – excellent rock-climbing
- Sheep Mountain – lots of visitors from all over

#### Location Specific Comment – White River area

- White River area - Firebreak causes road confusion.
- White River area – Gates not open during snow time
- White River area – 3 ranches hold most of the land in the entire valley.

#### Location Specific Comment – Scratch Gravel SRMA

- Scratch Gravel-daily exercise and dog walking
- I enjoy the Scratch Gravel because they are close to town and are usually not crowded. I enjoy hiking/ running and biking out there.
- Scratch Gravel bike trails
- Scratch Gravel viewshed
- Scratch Gravel, close proximity to my residence
- Scratch Gravel history
- Restricting e-bikes from Scratch Gravel (n)
- The fact that the new SRMA plan for Scratch Gravel restricts the use of ebike for all users. As a minimum they should allow e-bike for aged or ADA individuals.
- Sheep Mountain – Traffic problems – increased when BLM closed Scratch Gravel to OHV use.
- Scratch Gravel – I mountain bike there and extended my career mountain biking by buying an e-bike. Restrictions there decreased access to the area I love
- Scratch Gravel – fencing to keep people on trails and off private land.
- Scratch Gravel SRMA - had motorized at one time (n)
- Scratch Gravel SRMA – Hiking and dog walking. Solitude wildlife hunting
- Scratch Gravel – has become somewhat better because of increased use.

## Location Specific Comment – Pipestone SRMA

- Open more areas to motorized decrease pipestone population.
- Need more single track in pipestone.
- Better management of Pipestone
- Pack in, out with violations. Litter is out of control in pipestone
- Additional trails at Pipestone – clear trails that are already there to make access easier.
- Keep it open – especially Pipestone for side by side.
- Grade the road to Pipestone.
- Relationship between BLM and USFS (especially around Pipestone)
- Pipestone – open more trails with varying difficulty levels.
- USFS and BLM need a cooperative management agreement for Pipestone.
- In pipestone area it seems apparent
- Pipestone – BLM manages well, Trails cross boundaries, active management by USFS does not exist.
- Inconsistency between BLM and USFS – need interagency cooperation especially for Pipestone area.
- Multiuser-multiuse balance in Pipestone
- Pipestone is in a rain shadow that makes it a seasonally dry area.
- Pipestone – variety of OHV opportunities
- Pipestone area
- Being a landowner in pipestone. It is an incredibly special place to me, my family, and friends. Everyone being able to safely recreate is critical to preserving this. Please designate single track usage so I don't have to see a child get on a head on with a side by side with a drunk driver. Keep open for all but in a safe, long term manner. Regulate camping (Space, length of stay). Litter. Trail use. Respect of private land.
- Dirt biking, e-biking. A lot of memories made in pipestone. Friendships have grown out of this place as well as a place for the whole family to get out and enjoy the outdoors.



- Pipestone is a centerpiece between towns.
- Sheep Mountain, Humbug Spire and Pipestone – excellent rock-climbing
- Pipestone – signage showing rules.
- Pipestone – recreating with family and friends on trails – safety is important.
- Pipestone – centerpiece for multiple communities
- Too many rules and taking away the freedom we have in pipestone.
- Need toilets at Pipestone.
- Massive campsite at bottom of Pipestone (n)
- Pipestone - Getting too crowded – open more opportunities/places to ride.
- Connect Whitehall to Pipestone
- Slight increase made it worse at pipestone.
- Could pipestone be an open OHV riding area? No designated routes? Too many trails to manage.
- Example: East Fork Rock in Oregon is managed cooperatively between BLM and USFS as a system – could be a model for shared management in this field office – especially Pipestone
- Increase single-track in Pipestone.
- Take vandalism paint off rocks (Pipestone?)
- More LEOs – especially in Pipestone
- Pipestone - Homestone, Whiskey Gulch, Whitetail
- There are a lot of people in the Pipestone area. We need more trails to disperse users.

#### Benefits – Community and Environmental

- Access to all makes it better for all. Benefits communities, and helps people enjoy life.

#### Benefits – Community and Environmental - Increased desirability of place to live

- Increased desirability of place to live.

### Benefits – Community and Environmental – Cultural Heritage

- Preserve cultural heritage.
- Special qualities – other – abandon mines are cultural resources.

### Benefits – Community and Environmental – Tourism revenue for local communities

- Open access to public lands, undisturbed general scenery of the mountains, hills, and the waterways. Economic effects from public lands, hunting fishing and recreation.
- Recreation patronizes local businesses – especially motorized.
- Connecting with family on larger remote pieces of land. Without the public land, few families would be able to afford these types of get-togethers.
- money spent in local towns

### Benefits – Household and Relational – Sharing the Landscape with Others

- Generational traditions
- It was the first place I ever went off-roading, it's nostalgic, I enjoy sharing this area with new people.
- I grew up recreating these areas through offroad vehicles and I met my wife while recreating there; it is incredibly nostalgic for me. It is a fantastic central location for lots of users to share, which makes it a great place to be.
- Memories of family and friends enjoying it
- Pipestone – recreating with family and friends on trails – safety is important.
- Nostalgic – memories of first ride and sharing that with others

### Benefits – Household and Relational – Alternative entertainment for youth

- keeps kids off drugs.

### Benefits – Household and Relational – Time with Friends

- Family and friends getting out and enjoying what we love most!
- Lifelong friends
- Build and maintain friendships.
- Family and friends, memories

- It helps build friendships.
- Dirt biking, e-biking. A lot of memories made in pipestone. Friendships have grown out of this place as well as a place for the whole family to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

#### Benefits – Household and Relational – Teach our Children about the Outdoors and Recreation

- Using public lands gives us a better quality of life. Teaches our children similar skills these lands help decrease stress and encourage resilience.
- I grew up riding dirt bike etc.... I passed this along to my kids and grandkids. We camp together. Great family time.
- Raising kids in the outdoors so they can experience these things too.
- A way to pass stories on to our kids.
- Dirt biking, e-biking. A lot of memories made in pipestone. Friendships have grown out of this place as well as a place for the whole family to get out and enjoy the outdoors.
- No course available for safety riding – safety is needed to pass our sport on to our kids

#### Benefits – Household and Relational – Living a more outdoor oriented life

- In this area it is critical. Opportunities are huge and the predominant culture of the community is geared to the outdoors, year-round.
- Public lands promote recreation and healthy lifestyles, which is critical for positive for positive mental health and physical health.
- Dirt biking, e-biking. A lot of memories made in pipestone. Friendships have grown out of this place as well as a place for the whole family to get out and enjoy the outdoors.
- Can still go outside in a pandemic.

#### Benefits – Household and Relational – Family activity/time together

- Creates healthy family activities.
- Creates healthy friend activities.
- Enjoying the outdoors with our families, safely. Side by side and drinking has challenged this. Would like everyone to have equal opportunity to recreate to their own liking safely.

- Open riding space for entire family
- Camping/family activities
- Family time
- Family and friends getting out and enjoying what we love most!
- I grew up riding dirt bike etc.... I passed this along to my kids and grandkids. We camp together. Great family time.
- It's where we go to walk, run or ride after work and decompress/catch up on our days.
- Family and friends, memories
- The range of trails and the variety of obstacles. The terrain and views are amazing. I have many family memories there and many more I look forward to making.
- Variety of trails for entire family
- Pipestone – recreating with family and friends on trails – safety is important.
- Time with family
- Too crowded to bring wife, kids and grandkids there.
- Allowing class 1 (pedal assist) e-bikes on trails. Per DOT- not a motorized vehicle; classified as a bike. E-bike a great equalizer and allows stronger riders to enjoy riding with weaker riders. Example 1) is my wife and I. 2) my 50-year-old son- I (I'm 76) e-bike allows a compatible ride. Closing notes- 1) e-bikes are quiet and emit no exhaust or fumes. 2) even though I'm ADA allowed to ride, but this privileged should not be an exception.
- What my family does- motorized recreation- have ridden MC since I was 7- also own SxS

### Benefits - Personal

- Without public lands there would be no reason to live
- Access to all makes it better for all. Benefits communities, and helps people enjoy life.
- It provides a positive outlet for me and others to enjoy life
- I feel like most of the time I have a pretty successful experience.

### Benefits – Personal – Harvest from the Land (Hunting, Fishing, berries, etc.)

- Wild meat is a personal benefit from recreation.
- Hunting for big game and birds

### Benefits – Personal – Memories – past experiences

- Generational traditions
- I grew up riding dirt bike etc.... I passed this along to my kids and grandkids. We camp together. Great family time.
- Family and friends, memories
- It was the first place I ever went off-roading, it's nostalgic, I enjoy sharing this area with new people.
- I grew up recreating these areas through offroad vehicles and I met my wife while recreating there; it is incredibly nostalgic for me. It is a fantastic central location for lots of users to share, which makes it a great place to be.
- Dirt biking, e-biking. A lot of memories made in pipestone. Friendships have grown out of this place as well as a place for the whole family to get out and enjoy the outdoors.
- The range of trails and the variety of obstacles. The terrain and views are amazing. I have many family memories there and many more I look forward to making.
- Memories of family and friends enjoying it
- Nostalgic – memories of first ride and sharing that with others.
- Lack of public access would kill the sentiment for me- Without access to the land for recreation in the manner which we historically do, it will no longer be utilized in a responsible manner.
- No one used to go there in my childhood.
- What my family does- motorized recreation- have ridden MC since I was 7- also own SxS

### Benefits – Personal – Explore and Discover Places

- Access to dispersed camping and cool geological features to explore.
- I like seeing new things.

- Ability to explore.
- Exploring new places, getting lost

#### Benefits – Personal – Test Skills

- Availability of different difficulties. I would love more difficult trails, but there still are some that you can challenge your skills on.
- Easy to ride.
- Development, i.e. making trails easier for broader range of users- I like being challenged and putting my skills to the test.
- New trail maintenance to develop harder OHV trails, one-way trails, loop trails, signage
- Looking for full size challenge trails

#### Benefits – Personal - Resilience

- Using public lands gives us a better quality of life. Teaches our children similar skills these lands help decrease stress and encourage resilience.
- Nothing is missing, I like the self-reliant aspects of Wise River, Wisdom and Divide. The distance means you have to plan. IT keeps the riff-raff away (i.e. huge RVs and fair-weather campers)

#### Benefits – Personal – Reduces Stress

- Reduce stress.
- I feel amazing when I'm out doing stuff in public lands. So, whenever I'm stressed or feeling sad in town its really nice to be able to just get away from it
- Stress relief
- Stress relief
- Using public lands gives us a better quality of life. Teaches our children similar skills these lands help decrease stress and encourage resilience.
- Stress relief
- Stress relief
- Public lands make me feel better reduce my stress.

- It's where we go to walk, run or ride after work and decompress/catch up on our days

#### Benefits – Personal – Connection to Nature

- Lets you be able to experience nature
- Provide many places to enjoy nature.
- Gives me peace being out in the wild

#### Benefits – Personal – Tranquil Escape

- Recreation in the outdoors and getting away from the business of life.
- Gives time to relax.
- Makes it better.
- Good- Calming views, quiet, mountains are my happy place.
- Gives me peace being out in the wild

#### Benefits – Personal – Escape from urban life

- Getting out of the cities
- Out of office
- Out of city – can get away quickly.
- I live in the city limits and can hike and e-bike in both BLM and forest service properties.
- It is a contrast from urban experiences.

#### Benefits – Personal – Health (Physical and Mental)

- More people getting out to exercise.
- Freedom- I love to hunt, fish, and hike. Public lands are the place I pursue the best things in my life. Improves mental and physical health.
- As someone who moved here to be near public land, it improves my life in every way, especially when considering physical and mental wellbeing. Spending time in nature/ outdoors is one of the few scientifically proven remedies for many of these issues.
- Overall mental/physical health

- Significantly! I use trails at a local (Helena) developed sites nearly every day. I'm a walker and these trails for exercise, bird watching, mental health.
- Wellbeing and mental health + physical
- Public lands have very high value for my quality of life. The positive attributes afforded by open space, views, contours features of the terrain enhances my mental and physical wellbeing.
- Public lands promote recreation and healthy lifestyles, which is critical for positive for positive mental health and physical health.
- Health benefits
- It helps with wellbeing both physical and mental health.
- Exercise
- Public lands make me feel better reduce my stress.
- Taking care of mental and physical health needs
- Too many people and dogs are not allowed. My dog is an incredibly important part of outdoor rec for me for reasons such as safety and emotional fulfillment.
- Mental health

### Settings - Operational

- Infrastructure to support recreation (signage, maps, toilets, etc.)
- BLM land sometimes can feel less "managed" than a "wilderness" area.
- Mountains are used to very little restrictions. Open public lands are a basis of our culture.
- Development for intensive recreation ruins many public land areas.
- Unmanaged and wide-open access and use by any and all for all activities. Allowing activities that negatively impact the resource- land, water, wildlife, irresponsible development activities (Poor mining and grazing) overdevelopment for recreation that changes the quality of the resource and user experience.
- Commercialization
- Lack of facilities were a problem in the past, but better now.



- Expand the number of recreation areas that are open. Spread the users over more areas.
- Unlimited access of all uses, Low maintenance at developed sites, lack of enforcement of regs by agency. (n)

### Settings – Operational - Camping

- Designation of camping
- Adding a campground – too much dispersed camping is bad.
- Camping/fishing access around lakes
- Need expansion of campgrounds
- Camping/family activities
- Remote, solitude, lack of development and dispersed recreation are part of local public lands.
- Camping
- Lands other than SRMA's: Wildlife values, hunting, hiking, solitude, dispersed camping, fishing, elkhorns management unit.
- Camping-uncrowded
- I prefer simple camping areas (not KOA's type areas)
- Access to dispersed camping and cool geological features to explore.
- Being a landowner in pipestone. It is an incredibly special place to me, my family, and friends. Everyone being able to safely recreate is critical to preserving this. Please designate single track usage so I don't have to see a child get on a head on with a side by side with a drunk driver. Keep open for all but in a safe, long term manner. Regulate camping (Space, length of stay). Litter. Trail use. Respect of private land.
- Varied riding trails, camping opportunities, all weather use.
- Camping trails
- Nice camping/lake access
- Trash and various waste from dryland campers
- Long term campers-leaving trash, over-staying the 2 weeks max
- Continued chaos- drinking and driving, camping anywhere and everywhere.

- Lack of BLM active participation as a full partner in management participation with the other agency neighbors. Uncontrolled or loss of off-road control enforcement, loss of campsite use and uncontrolled trail use.
- Campgrounds can get trashy.
- People overstaying limits on length of stay rule.
- Massive campsite at bottom of Pipestone (n)
- Assigned camping and responsibility for that area.
- A more designated campground with better pit toilets would be good.
- Camping – dispersed or sited at Copper City
- Overall use has increased, certain types are ok, but some are unacceptable. Use of off-road types vehicles is a real challenge on driving for pleasure, now it is driving for self-defense on many days. Camping needs attention to develop more acceptable sites and not just let it happen in many cases places not good sites.
- Increased population due to COVID has also increased homeless presence on public lands.
- Camping spots are getting busy and more played out.
- Lack of BLM enforcement at campgrounds and on river – enforcement that exists is not “fair.”
- Increase funding for recreation programs that clean up campgrounds.
- Camping over 14 days does not apply to some (n)
- More people, no legal enforcement for people doing the right thing (Litter, camping damage, too many people in limited number of trails) (n)
- Other Services used – a flat spot to camp.

#### Settings – Operational – Regulations and Fees

- Pack in, out with violations. Litter is out of control in pipestone
- Fire risk management: Deferral practices, easy egress
- Active plan on how agencies deal with misuse of lands.
- Some places to be alcohol free to reduce bad behavior.
- Overtime camping – people overstaying the 14-day limit

- Yes. Fees and activities allowed. Don't want to trespass.
- Most of the time I am not aware of the boundaries, but if I am aware of what type of land I'm in it might change my behaviors depending on new regulations.
- Yes. Know regulations and use ethics of both public and private lands. Respect for land (whether public or private) boundaries, etc. Treat those lands all the same.
- Standardize use policy be consistent crossing BLM to US Forest does not influence my use.
- Differing laws and regs
- Yes. By self-education recreate according to land management, the protocols, differ between agencies.
- Yes, it {management areas and differing regulations} dictates speed and noise.
- Yes, I do my best to respect the different rules.
- Users are responsible to know restrictions.
- Fewer rules on BLM makes it more chaotic on the land.
- Rules need to be known as you transition from one management area to another.
- Rules change with boundaries.
- Need to know rules.
- Don't change use – let us go where it is legal to go
- Reasonable user fees
- Not having to pay for recreation access.
- Very reasonable user fees
- Smith River Permit system decreases access.
- Not coming across width restriction gates everywhere. I can still take my full size jeep on trails there. More jeep trails would be ideal
- Being a landowner in pipestone. It is an incredibly special place to me, my family, and friends. Everyone being able to safely recreate is critical to preserving this. Please designate single track usage so I don't have to see

a child get on a head on with a side by side with a drunk driver. Keep open for all but in a safe, long-term manner. Regulate camping (Space, length of stay). Litter. Trail use. Respect for private land.

- Signage with restrictions and difficulty levels
- Pipestone – signage showing rules.
- No artificial restrictions – pinch points; USFS does this – regulations for the sake of regulations
- Being overly restrictive on use
- Restricting access for dogs
- Too many people and dogs are not allowed. My dog is an incredibly important part of outdoor rec for me for reasons such as safety and emotional fulfillment.
- Higher user fees
- Disregard for designated use areas by many users
- Making it fee-based
- More regulations!!! Education is awesome, regulations just lock stuff down.
- Restrictions
- Pricy stickers for registration tickets
- Long term campers-leaving trash, over-staying the 2 weeks max
- Too many rules and taking away the freedom we have in pipestone.
- More restrictions
- More restrictions.
- Too much government red tape
- More restrictions and closures
- Restrictions
- More restrictions
- Lack of BLM active participation as a full partner in management participation with the other agency neighbors. Uncontrolled or loss of off-road control enforcement, loss of campsite use and uncontrolled trail use.

- More licensing and fees
- Fees are okay if they fund resources.
- Permits limit access.
- People do not know rules and activities (visitors, not locals)
- Exorbitant fees hurts equality of access
- People that are new to the area need more information on what is available and what the rules are on BLM lands.
- More designated wilderness areas
- Public would tolerate fees in exchange for better management.
- Consider fee use areas to fund management if it is not in the budget.
- Additional fees, permits, or restrictions are needed to manage increased crowding.

#### Settings – Operational - Bathrooms

- Additional fees, permits, or restrictions could help solve many issues, especially with education.
- Pit latrines
- Trailhead improvements-toilet facilities and signage
- Delmo Lake and 4 corners offer picnic tables and toilets.
- Need toilets at Pipestone.
- Signage and outhouses
- Parking with pit latrines
- Toilets
- Pit toilets!!! At SRMA sites
- Toilets at trailheads or entrances- human waste on trail ruins the experience, its hard to pee outside as a female.
- Toilets at trailheads are key to minimizing human waste impacts and are unfortunately lacking.
- A more designated campground with better pit toilets would be good.

- Wash stations
- Solid waste disposal. Some more restrooms.
- Vaulted outhouses
- pit toilets
- Pit toilets at ECHO and/or head lane and be signage. I'd be completely lost out there w/o Trailforks app
- Other services used – Trailheads/parking with pit latrines.

### Settings – Operational - Signage

- Signs
- Trail signage
- Trailhead improvements-toilet facilities and signage
- Sustainable growth through continued education and community involvement. Prioritize development of new trails and updating signage/information on existing trails.
- Signage for trail safety
- Better markings to make it to like the main trails back to campgrounds.
- Signage
- Better interpretive signs at historic sites
- No, signage is minimal. Need areas better defined.
- Not always marked.
- Signs and boundary markings
- Sometimes signage is sparse in areas so difficult to know who's managing at times.
- Improve signage.
- I rely on digital mapping to recognize boundaries, but I feel I'm probably a minority. Need signage that includes boundaries and land use rules.
- No, only on GPS. No signage. But the numbering system is different in USFS
- Boundaries are rarely clearly marked.

- Paying attention to signage delegation boundaries
- The administrative boundaries or land designation are clearly marked. If I see one I adhere to common sense rules and respect the land.
- We try and respect the management areas... sometimes better signage would be helpful.
- Better signage
- Better signage
- Generally, not at all. I see some boundary signs but they are usually old and shot up and I know from experience people move these signs to cut public use off. Generally, I know public lands but mostly not difference between Fs and BLM or state lands.
- BLM road signs need to tell us if area is open or not.
- Nice to have signs when crossing into different lands.
- Appreciate additional signage in Sheep Mountain (although some have already been vandalized).
- Make information accessible with QR codes.
- Water launch sites – need to know regulations for parking vehicles.
- Signage on trail difficulties and vehicle access
- Signage with restrictions and difficulty levels
- Pipestone – signage showing rules.
- Signage and outhouses
- Updated signage or current info.
- Would like more info in the form of signage, kiosks, free maps at kiosks, etc.
- I think that speed limit signs should be utilized. I also believe that trails should be named and have proper designation should be made clear.
- More signage to explain access.
- Copper city is a rattlesnake area, needs warning signs.
- Better trail markings

- Presence of BLM at/on the lands it manages around Helena (rangers, signage)
- signage
- Pit toilets at ECHO and/or head lane and be signage. I'd be completely lost out there w/o Trailforks app
- New trail maintenance to develop harder OHV trails, one-way trails, loop trails, signage
- Signage
- Signage with trails marked and information.
- Better marking (signage) – newbies get lost and it can be scary
- Special qualities – other – Signage for width and difficulty
- Moto and ATV is much worse. 1) lack of rules enforcement 2) Lack of proper signage to stay on designated routes (n)

#### Settings – Operational - Pollution

- Priorities for me would include keeping the land as clean and litter-free as possible.
- Accessibility and diversity and the development of new trails. I see bikers, hikers, runners, and equestrian use. I love to see this. I just want to avoid user conflict and designate specific trails to specific user groups. I'm also happy to see over the course of six years how the land has been cleaned-up
- Pollution, invasive species (mussels, water weeds), more harmful algae blooms, overdevelopment along the water.
- If there was a lot of people or there was a lot of pollution.
- Water pollution, invasive species, algae blooms, overdevelopment on water's edge
- Pollution, invasive species, more HAB's (n)
- Other barriers - Air quality (from wildfire smoke), water quality

#### Settings – Operational – Sanitation and Trash

- My biggest priority would be safety, and my second largest priority would probably be sanitation and pollution control.



- Priorities for me would include keeping the land as clean and litter-free as possible.
- Trashing BLM areas (I spend a lot of time picking up other people's trash, including bullet casings and wood w/ nails sticking out of it)
- Education- Pack it in pack it out
- I would add more trash removal.
- Pack in, out with violations. Litter is out of control in pipestone
- Trash, Lack of Respect for Land
- Pack it in, pack it out
- Keep lands as clean as possible (litter free)
  
- Being a land owner in pipestone. It is an incredibly special place to me, my family, and friends. Everyone being able to safely recreate is critical to preserving this. Please designate single track usage so I don't have to see a child get on a head on with a side by side with a drunk driver. Keep open for all but in a safe, long term manner. Regulate camping (Space, length of stay). Litter. Trail use. Respect of private land.
- Garbage
- People that do not appreciate the land. Loud, drinking, litter
- Garbage
- Human waste/trash
- Trash and various waste from dryland campers
- Trash
- Trash.
- Trash, overuse
- Campgrounds can get trashy.
- Human waste and trash
- Toilets at trailheads or entrances- human waste on trail ruins the experience, its hard to pee outside as a female.

- Toilets at trailheads are key to minimizing human waste impacts and are unfortunately lacking.
- Good TP
- Solid waste disposal. Some more restrooms.
- Leaking sewage is gross.
- Active patrolling will help see problems early, keep trash at bay and offer a presence of the BLM in the field.
- More people out on the trails that don't have respect or trail education, as well as more people leaving garbage everywhere (n)
- More people, no legal enforcement for people doing the right thing (Litter, camping damage, too many people in limited number of trails) (n)

### Settings - Social

- Enjoy sense of community but causing crowding/ safety incidents

### Settings – Social – Group Size

- groups too large
- Group size limits are too low (n)
- Group size limits are too high (n)
- Any limits on group size (n)

### Settings – Social - Overuse

- Overuse
- Overuse
- Overuse and misuse.
- Trash, overuse
- I think about vegetation and waterway destruction. I'm not sure if destruction is the correct word, but the impacts to vegetation and waterways.
- Use has significantly increased making it somewhat worse because people are being pigs, not respecting the land, tearing it up, UTVs and ATVs going off-trail

- Use has increased because housing is cheap compared to other states and this leads to heavier use on public lands from those moving in,
- Slight increase made it worse at pipestone.
- Particularly in May
- Erosion harder to control.
- Increased and worse because people are poaching in new trails.
- Trout numbers going down from overfishing.
- Copper City – has become somewhat worse because of increased use.
- Scratch Gravel – has become somewhat better because of increased use.
- Overuse, especially with OHV rentals at trailheads (n)

#### Settings – Social – Crowding Issues

- Crowding and overuse
- Supervision because of so many visitors
- It is loved to death – hard to keep pace with the needs of recreation visitors.
- Uncrowded open lands. The area is not overpopulated or overcrowded. I feel the public lands in and out of this BLM office give residents and non-residents the ability to enjoy, but not put the lands at risk.
- I enjoy the Scratch Gravel because they are close to town and are usually not crowded. I enjoy hiking/ running and biking out there.
- Camping-uncrowded
- Lower density of users on weekdays
- Sheep Mountain – OHV designation draws lots of people.
- Overcrowding
- Lots of people/ overcrowding of infrastructure
- People- too many
- Overcrowding
- Too many people.
- Overuse w/o proper infrastructure (for the size)

- Too many people and dogs are not allowed. My dog is an incredibly important part of outdoor rec for me for reasons such as safety and emotional fulfillment.
- If there was a lot of people or there was a lot of pollution.
- Too many people
- More people/ visitors
- More ORV use.
- Overcrowding
- If the trails are poorly managed. Many of the trails in Montana are seeing more use. If they are poorly managed they will inevitably close.
- Overcrowding
- Pipestone - Overcrowded, well-known, Lack of infrastructure to handle crowds.
- Crowding
- Pipestone - Getting too crowded – open more opportunities/places to ride.
- Overcrowding due to the pandemic
- Too many people
- Camping spots are getting busy and more played out.
- Crowded
- No one used to go there in my childhood.
- Too crowded to bring wife, kids and grandkids there.
- More people has made it worse
- More people on the ground
- Expand the number of recreation areas that are open. Spread the users over more areas.
- Sheep Mountain – lots of visitors from all over
- Additional fees, permits, or restrictions are needed to manage increased crowding.
- Too much use in a small area, open more areas (n)

- Density of trails user created trails (n)
- Too many people and not enough trails (n)
- Too many people in area- need more space (n)
- Less space as more people come (n)
- More people, no legal enforcement for people doing the right thing (Litter, camping damage, too many people in limited number of trails) (n)
- Increase in population (n)
- More people means more people who are not educated on how to respectfully use land (n)
- The lack of education and larger groups of people recreating has resulted in a decreased in the proper use of trails (n)
- lots of users do not follow the rules and tread lightly (n)
- It is far more crowded than it has been historically, with that comes the outliers that are not respectful of the land (n)
- There are a lot of people in Pipestone area. We need more trails to disperse users.
- Need to open more trails so we can disburse more.
- Once on the trails you don't see many people.
- Enjoy sense of community but causing crowding/ safety incidents

#### Settings – Social - Solitude

- Opportunity for solitude
- Getting left alone
- Want to be left alone.
- Helps get away from people.
- Remote, solitude, lack of development and dispersed recreation are part of local public lands.
- Lands other than SRMA's: Wildlife values, hunting, hiking, solitude, dispersed camping, fishing, elkhorns management unit.

### Settings – Physical and Biological

- Mountains are used to very little restrictions. Open public lands are a basis of our culture.
- Open year round! This is one of the few places in the region that the snow does not stay. Geography is unique.

### Settings – Physical and Biological - Remoteness

- No cell service (benefit)
- Remote, solitude, lack of development and dispersed recreation are part of local public lands.
- Humbug Spires – wilderness, remote, not crowded at all.
- Remoteness
- Like the new focus on recreation development but should consider impact on previous recreation experiences – remoteness is often lost.
- Nothing is missing, I like the self-reliant aspects of Wise River, Wisdom and Divide. The distance means you have to plan. IT keeps the riff-raff away (i.e. huge RVs and fair-weather campers)

### Settings – Physical and Biological – Geological Resources

- Unique geology
- Access to dispersed camping and cool geological features to explore.
- Rock-hounding
- Crystal hunting
- Geological areas designated.
- Geologic features/views
- Sheep Mountain – geology, climbing on spires.
- Special qualities – other – Rock hounding, fishing, camping, dirt biking, e-biking, side by side

### Settings – Physical and Biological - Naturalness

- Preserved in natural state.
- The diversity of the trails (I like that they feel a little rugged and wild compared to the South Hills trails)

## Settings – Physical and Biological – Scenic beauty/views

- Scenery
- Provides peace, quiet, see the beauty.
- It's beautiful, there's a wide variety of ways to recreate. It's accessible to all.
- Great views
- Scenic, less transportation congestion
- Public lands have very high value for my quality of life. The positive attributes afforded by open space, views, contours features of the terrain enhances my mental and physical wellbeing.
- get to beautiful areas we wouldn't see otherwise.
- It contributes to the quiet, scenery, and recreation opportunities of living here.
- Upper Big Hole offers close fishing and beautiful scenery.
- Beauty
- Diverse
- Beautiful Views
- Panoramic views
- Scratch Gravel viewshed
- Scenery
- Scenery
- The range of trails and the variety of obstacles. The terrain and views are amazing. I have many family memories there and many more I look forward to making.
- Geologic features/views
- For me it is close proximity and availability, whether it be for fishing, floating, camping or enjoying the beauty and wildlife.
- Scenery

## Settings – Physical and Biological – Protection of the Resources/Land

- Access multiple use based on property of use for maximizing protection of resources.
- Keep the current land healthy and keep up access.
- Outreach for education on best practices for leave no trace and trail respect. i.e. not going off trail, reducing trash, fire rings.
- Education... How to respect, maintain, leave better than you found it
- Education – respect for the land
- The administrative boundaries or land designation are clearly marked. If I see one I adhere to common sense rules and respect the land.
- We try and respect the management areas... sometimes better signage would be helpful.
- Yes, not much difference, respect everyone's trails/lands.
- Have respect for ALL lands.
- Given Butte is a mining town, and the destruction to the landscape, it is wonderful to know the beauty and recreational offerings are nearby and protected. I feel Butte offers the best of both the city-type feel with the mountains and waterways.
- Protect the resource.
- Recognize that when it comes to recreation, often less is more. Recreation has adverse effects to wildlife. Protect, steward wildlife, water quality and other natural resources.

## Settings – Physical and Biological – Wild character of the land

- Keep land clean/wild.
- Wilderness areas
- Humbug Spires – wilderness, remote, not crowded at all
- Various utilize both SRMA's as well as dispersed areas throughout the Butte Area. Important are areas such as wilderness study areas as well as the ACEC in the Elkhorns which is part of the Elkhorn wildlife management unit. Also numerous BLM sites along the Missouri and Madison and Big Hole Rivers. Hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, land watching.
- More designated wilderness areas



## Settings – Physical and Biological – Damage to the Resources/Land

- As far as recreation goes focus more on non-motorized, non-mechanized recreation, but with the understanding that intensive recreation of any kind has serious impacts on wildlife...
- Be open to taking appropriate action when users are blatantly missing the resources.
- Education- Tread lightly
- Abuse of BLM land
- Active plan on how agencies deal with misuse of lands.
- Impacts of human activity on wildlife
- OHV use disregards land use designations and ride wherever they want. Including trespass of private lands. Creating conflicts and environment consequences
- I'm supposed to say how its enriching, but I'm affected by the overuse and things like riding off-trail, reducing vegetation and generally tearing up the land.
- Unmanaged and wide-open access and use by any and all for all activities. Allowing of activities that negatively impact the resource- land, water, wildlife, irresponsible development activities (Poor mining and grazing) overdevelopment for recreation that changes the quality of the resource and user experience.
- OHV, specifically moto and ATV going off designated routes and damaged land.
- Precluding the use of my e-bike on the trails. E-bikes do not degrade trails any more or differently than trailhead mtn bikes
- Improper use, destroying trails and surrounding land.
- How do e-bikes fit into this – they can cause as much erosion as a dirt bike
- Combination of proximity to urban areas and dry climate – people are tempted to use OHVs in damaging ways.
- Damage to soil and vegetation
- I think about vegetation and waterway destruction. I'm not sure if destruction is the correct word, but the impacts to vegetation and waterways.

- Use has significantly increased, making it somewhat worse because people are being pigs, not respecting the land, tearing it up, UTVs and ATVs going off-trail.
- Erosion harder to control.
- No, closure- education is so that people don't tear it up.
- Alert folks regarding environmental degradation
- Take vandalism paint off rocks (Pipestone?)
- South Hills – Pricky pear damage – fencing is good.
- Other barriers - Air quality (from wildfire smoke), water quality

### Settings – Physical and Biological - Wildlife

- Wildlife
- Wildlife
- As far as recreation goes focus more on non-motorized, non-mechanized recreation, but with the understanding that intensive recreation of any kind has serious impacts on wildlife...
- Impacts of human activity on wildlife
- Significantly! I use trails at a local (Helena) developed sites nearly every day. I'm a walker and these trails for exercise, bird watching, mental health.
- Lands other than SRMA's: Wildlife values, hunting, hiking, solitude, dispersed camping, fishing, elkhorns management unit.
- Wildlife (birds, mammals)
- For me it is close proximity and availability, whether it be for fishing, floating, camping or enjoying the beauty and wildlife.
- Bird watching along the Missouri River – great variety.
- Wildlife
- Lack of wildlife.
- Shooting marmots for dinner – LEO issue
- Trout numbers going down from overfishing.

- Recognize that when it comes to recreation, often less is more. Recreation has adverse effects to wildlife. Protect, steward wildlife, water quality and other natural resources.

### Settings – Physical and Biological - Conservation

- Conservation
- Multi-use recreation and multi-use trails (not all trails need to include all, but focus should be on diversity) Also, I realize this is counter but not just having free-for-all use, still prioritizing preservation, and conservation. Not sure what that balance is.
- Keep land clean/wild.
- Protection and conservation of public lands.
- Preserved in natural state.
- Various utilize both SRMA's as well as dispersed areas throughout the Butte Area. Important areas such as wilderness study areas as well as the ACEC in the Elkhorns which is part of the Elkhorn wildlife management unit. Also numerous BLM sites along the Missouri and Madison and Big Hole Rivers. Hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, land watching.
- Conservation leasing (negative)

### Settings – Physical and Biological – Ecological Diversity

- Ecological diversity to better satisfy the multiple use standard.
- Diverse
- The abundance of wildflowers
- The diversity in the landscape and the quality of the trails is good.
- Bird watching along the Missouri River – great variety.
- So much alive – bugs and more – “Everything is dead in Wyoming.”
- Pollution, invasive species (mussels, water weeds), more harmful algae blooms, overdevelopment along the water.

### Settings – Physical and Biological – Habitat - Ecosystem

- Habitat Conservation/Restoration
- Keep land clean/wild

- Prioritizing natural ecosystems
- Love how alive everything is
- Pipestone is in a rain shadow that makes it a seasonally dry area
- Lush
- Good water quality/temperature
- Water pollution, invasive species, algae blooms, overdevelopment on water's edge
- Current information about water temperature and water quality and presence of HAB's
- Pollution, invasive species, more HAB's (n)

#### Activity Specific Comments

- Mountain Biking
- Hiking
- Strong support of equality of access for type 1 EMTB's
- Sport shooting areas-designated for safety
- Walking and biking trails.
- No e-bikes
- As far as recreation goes focus more on non-motorized, non-mechanized recreation, but with the understanding that intensive recreation of any kind has serious impacts on wildlife...
- OHV management
- Allowing class 1 e-bikes; decision maker should ride e-bike before excluding.
- Keep trails open to SxS, motorcycles, and H-wheelers. Do not let conservation groups shut down trails and turn areas into quiet zones.
- Keeping trails open for dirt biking, mountain biking, camping.
- OHV rights
- Listen to staff about OHV access and problems.
- Inclusive vs. exclusive use – give class 1 e-bikes access.

- Equal access for e-bikes (type 1)
- Designated areas for sport shooting
- No e-biking
- depends on my activity.
- Activity dependent – hunting I have to be aware of boundaries.
- Easy, close access to public lands, wildlife, and hunting opportunities- freedom of public lands.
- Close access to BLM and USFS lands- hiking snowshoeing
- Riding dirt bikes
- Enjoying motor sports
- Availability of outdoor recreation. Golf, e-biking, dirt biking
- Dirt bike/offroad
- Open riding space for entire family
- OHV users may be worse on rules and respect in Sheep Mountain
- Off-roading is my primary form of recreation. If it were to be restricted, I would leave the area.
- I grew up riding dirt bike etc.... I passed this along to my kids and grandkids. We camp together. Great family time.
- Hunting, fishing, horseback riding, side-by-side driving all on public lands
- Sunday drives
- Upper Big Hole offers close fishing and beautiful scenery.
- McMaster Place – another site for horseback riding, navigation beacons and historical connections
- Camping
- Trail riding
- The climbing
- A rare place to open water swim.
- Scratch Gravel-daily exercise and dog walking

- Lands other than SRMA's: Wildlife values, hunting, hiking, solitude, dispersed camping, fishing, elkhorns management unit.
- I enjoy the Scratch Gravel because they are close to town and are usually not crowded. I enjoy hiking/ running and biking out there.
- It's where we go to walk, run or ride after work and decompress/catch up on our days.
- Various utilize both SRMA's as well as dispersed areas throughout the Butte Area. Important areas such as wilderness study areas as well as the ACEC in the Elkhorns which is part of the Elkhorn wildlife management unit. Also, numerous BLM sites along the Missouri and Madison and Big Hole Rivers. Hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, land watching.
- Rock Climbing
- Accessibility and diversity and the development of new trails. I see bikers, hikers, runners, and equestrian use. I love to see this. I just want to avoid user conflict and designate specific trails to specific user groups. I'm also happy to see over the course of six years how the land has been cleaned-up
- Hunting
- Fishing
- It was the first place I ever went off-roading, its nostalgic, I enjoy sharing this area with new people.
- I grew up recreating these areas through offroad vehicles and I met my wife while recreating there; it is incredibly nostalgic for me. It is a fantastic central location for lots of users to share, which makes it a great place to be.
- Dirt biking
- Rock-hounding
- Crystal hunting
- Walking
- Fishing
- Biking
- E-biking
- Camping

- Dirt biking, e-biking. A lot of memories made in pipestone. Friendships have grown out of this place as well as a place for the whole family to get out and enjoy the outdoors.
- For me it is close proximity and availability, whether it be for fishing, floating, camping or enjoying the beauty and wildlife.
- Sheep Mountain – geology, climbing on spires.
- Sheep Mountain – Disc golf course is heavily used.
- Sheep Mountain, Humbug Spire and Pipestone – excellent rock-climbing
- Bird watching along the Missouri River – great variety.
- Multi-use – Trail running, Mountain Biking, Cross Country skiing.
- Nostalgic – memories of first ride and sharing that with others.
- I can catch really big fish there.
- Canyon ferry – opportunity for cold water swimming at scale
- Overdevelopment which could be staved off by using scenic climbing as an excuse.
- More ORV use.
- Moto and ATV using BLM trails to enter my property, ignoring no trespassing signage.
- Precluding the use of my e-bike on the trails. E-bikes do not degrade trails any more or differently than trailhead mtn bikes
- E-bikes do not go faster downhill than traditional mtn bike.
- How do e-bikes fit into this – they can cause as much erosion as a dirt bike
- Scratch Gravel – I mountain bike there and extended my career mountain biking by buying an e-bike. Restrictions there decreased access to the area I love
- Overall use has increased, certain types are ok but some are unacceptable. Use of off-road types vehicles is a real challenge on driving for pleasure, now it is driving for self-defense on many days. Camping needs attention to develop more acceptable sites and not just let it happen in many cases places not good sites.
- Increased side-by-side use changes the size of the trails (still good because it is motorized use)

- Depends on the use – mostly OHVs make it worse and other uses make it better.
- More hiking/backpacking areas
- Allow use of e-bikes on BLM trails
- Infrastructure for rock climbing areas
- Allowing class 1 (pedal assist) e-bikes on trails. Per DOT- not a motorized vehicle; classified as a bike. E-bike a great equalizer and allows stronger riders to enjoy riding with weaker riders. Example 1) is my wife and I. 2) my 50-year-old son- I (I'm 76) e-bike allows a compatible ride. Closing notes- 1) e-bikes are quiet and emit no exhaust or fumes. 2) even though I'm ADA allowed to ride, but this privileged should not be an exception.
- More folks using OHV – more business – it brings people from 500 miles away to recreate.
- Scratch Gravel SRMA – Hiking and dog walking. Solitude wildlife hunting
- Special qualities – other – Rock hounding, fishing, camping, dirt biking, e-biking, side by side
- New users less considerate of existing use (n)
- What my family does- motorized recreation- have ridden MC since I was 7- also own SxS
- Dirt biking, e-biking
- Cycling
- Mountain biking
- Snowshoeing
- Dirt biking
- Side x side
- Dirt biking and mountain biking
- Firewood cutting
- Hunting for big game and birds
- Biking
- Full size jeep



- Relaxing on the beach or shore, enjoying the water and the sun
- Rock crawling a full-size pickup.

## Services

- Population boom in Broadwater County – major challenge to provide services, lack of revenue stream
- Copper City bike park is great but increases the need for search and rescue and road needs ambulance access.
- Rentals
- Guides
- Commercialization – rental machines, cabins, etc.
- Grocery stores
- No. Less service the better.
- Rarely service/cellular coverage is not needed, although helpful for digital maps.
- Overuse, especially with OHV rentals at trailheads (n)
- Fewer services are better.
- Other services used – hardware store.
- Other services used – Outdoor stores.
- Other services used – Trailheads/parking with pit latrines.

## Services – Missing Services

- Gyms
- Current information about water temperature and water quality and presence of HAB's
- Greater publicity of the BLM what it is, what it does, what BLM lands are, and intentions of that use.
- Not really
- Parking with pit latrines
- Toilets

- No
- Hmm. I think just hours or days of operation. I don't get why some facilities are completely closed on Sunday, when a lot of folks are out trying to recreate.
- No! Does not need more development
- Trail access from Lake Delmoe to the trail system
- Education
- Education
- Toilets at trailheads or entrances- human waste on trail ruins the experience, it's hard to pee outside as a female.
- OHV Dirt bike track like Hungry Horse
- LEO
- A more designated campground with better pit toilets would be good.
- Designate some trails for young children that are only one-way loops.
- Maps
- Loading/Unloading ramps.
- Wash stations
- Solid waste disposal. Some more restrooms.
- Potable waters across sites
- Nothing is missing, I like the self-reliant aspects of Wise River, Wisdom and Divide. The distance means you have to plan. IT keeps the riff-raff away (i.e. huge RVs and fair-weather campers)
- Lack of cell phone service is a benefit.
- Mechanical pump for potable water
- Vaulted outhouses
- Connect Whitehall to Pipestone
- Copper city is a rattlesnake area, needs warning signs.
- Lodging is an issue in Townsend.

- Cell service and helipad at Copper City Bike trail
- Camping – dispersed or sited at Copper City
- Infrastructure for rock climbing areas

### Barriers to Recreation

- Not enough time or money
- I would have written about places being dog friendly, but the Helena community is just not dog friendly
- Allow e-bikes where bikes are permitted. All decision makers should experience class 1 e-bike before they make a use decision.
- Other barriers – age related!
- Other barriers – Terrible and difficult to navigate website.
- Other barriers - Too many tourists with no knowledge in back country
- Other barriers - Restrictions on trail use
- Other barriers - Not having an off-road vehicle.
- Other barriers - Air quality (from wildfire smoke), water quality
- Concern for lack of enforcement (BLM, FWP, all) is a barrier to recreation.
- Not enough full-size difficult trails is a barrier to recreation

## Appendix 3: Comments by focus group question

### Q4 – Management Priorities

- Enforcement
- Information
- Access
- Habitat Conservation/Restoration
- Recreation support and maintenance
- Infrastructure maintenance
- Ecological diversity to better satisfy the multiple use standard.
- Equal use for all
- Conservation
- Mountain Biking
- Hiking
- Wildlife
- No extractive industries
- Strong support of equality of access for type 1 EMTB's
- Sport shooting areas-designated for safety
- Walking and biking trails.
- No e-bikes
- Wildlife
- As far as recreation goes focus more on non-motorized, non-mechanized recreation, but with the understanding that intensive recreation of any kind has serious impacts on wildlife...

- Be present in the field. Show the public that you are managing the land.
- Multi-use recreation and multi-use trails (not all trails need to include all, but focus should be on diversity) Also, I realize this is counter but not just having free-for-all use, still prioritizing preservation, and conservation. Not sure what that balance is.
- Variety of recreation opportunities
- Keep land clean/wild.
- Opportunity for solitude
- Prioritizing natural ecosystems
- My biggest priority would be safety, and my second largest priority would probably be sanitation and pollution control.
- Priorities for me would include keeping the land as clean and litter-free as possible.
- Protection and conservation of public lands.
- Sustainable mgt and direction for land use. Recreation, development, and commodity use.
- Community profile and integration with various keyholders, both commercial and general public.
- Access multiple use based on property of use for maximizing protection of resources.
- Improve communications with the public perhaps through enhanced websites.
- Visitor safety
- Noxious weed management
- OHV management
- Infrastructure
- Trails
- Signs
- Pit latrines

- TH's
- Maps
- Zip Code 59634
- Manage according to existing RMP.
- Be open to taking appropriate action when users are blatantly missing the resources.
- Focus on adaptive management as circumstances on our public lands change. Especially with the dramatic increase in uses.
- Lands inclusive as a policy rather than being exclusive.
- Allowing class 1 e-bikes; decision maker should ride e-bike before excluding.
- Trail signage
- Trailhead improvements-toilet facilities and signage
- Allow e-bike use any place bikes are allowed. Any decision maker should ride a class 1 e-bike uphill, downhill, and on the flats before they would be excluded from an area bikes are allowed.
- Provide transparency through phases of project planning.
- Public safety RE: Firearms
- Trashing BLM areas (I spend a lot of time picking up other people's trash, including bullet casings and wood w/ nails sticking out of it)
- No closure of trails motorized.
- Open more areas to motorized decrease pipestone population.
- Need more single track in pipestone.
- Not closing any trails. If anything we need more trails due to recent popularity
- Keep trails open to SxS, motorcycles, and H-wheelers. Do not let conservation groups shut down trails and turn areas into quiet zones.
- Roads maintained.

- Keeping it open
- Better management of Pipestone
- Local access kept open.
- Communication in advance of any potential changes to policy or access.
- Access
- Impact on roads
- Fire management
- Keep the current land healthy and keep up access.
- Education- Gain knowledge on what to do, where not to go.
- Education- Pack it in pack it out
- Education- Tread lightly
- Outreach for education on best practices for leave no trace and trail respect. i.e. not going off trail, reducing trash, fire rings.
- Sustainable growth- new trails, more expert 4x4 trails, specialized trails for each category of transportation
- Sustainable growth through continued education and community involvement. Prioritize development of new trails and updating signage/information on existing trails.
- Promote shared use.
- Education... How to respect, maintain, leave better than you found it
- The safe and lawful use of BLM land. Along with this, the efficient utilization of this land. Creating trails that promote shared use along with the education on how to use these trails is very important.
- Trail maintenance
- New trails
- Trail educations

- I would add more trash removal.
- More trail loop.
- Shared use trail
- More trail safety
- Encouraged shared use for all- no OHV restrictions.
- Keeping shared use open
- More education on BLM specific lands use
- Open gates rather than closing
- Law and order
- Increasing police presence- monitoring camp/days at one site
- One-way trails
- Maintaining single tracks
- Water Bars
- Alcohol checks on drivers
- Camp checks for alcohol/ drivers under the influence
- Loop trails
- LEO presence, specifically drinking and driving.
- Camping limits and law enforcement
- Designation of trails- ie. Single track use vs side by side to allow for safe shared use.
- Pack in, out with violations. Litter is out of control in pipestone.
- Designation of camping
- Keeping trails open for dirt biking, mountain biking, camping.
- Shared use
- Loop trails



- Trail safety education
- Increase trail maintenance.
- Scouting out new areas/accessible
- Signage for trail safety
- Loop trails
- Prospective new trails?
- Trail upkeep
- Keeping it shared use
- Better markings to make it to like the main trails back to campgrounds.
- Safety of activities: Shooting areas, alcohol use on trails
- Fire risk management: Deferral practices, easy egress
- Trail maintenance
- Promote multiple use.
- Stop shutting down motorized use.
- Open more motorized use trails
- OHV rights
- Full size motorized, challenging trails
- overall management
- Balanced use of BLM lands being resource use like grazing and forest vegetation management, road use conditions, campgrounds and off-road use management, wildlife habitat, trails use, especially mountain bike use.
- Dissemination of information
- Law Enforcement officers – not enough officers, need to enforce regulations.
- Access and restrictions to access

- Making USA Jobs accessible and available
- Dead trees to reduce fire risk.
- Adding a campground – too much dispersed camping is bad.
- Additional trails at Pipestone – clear trails that are already there to make access easier.
- Negotiate rights-of-way when private land impedes.
- Manage according to the current plan.
- Public safety
- Listen to staff about OHV access and problems.
- Lack of enforcement on BLM Lands
- Abuse of BLM land
- Inclusive vs. exclusive use – give class 1 e-bikes access.
- More people getting out to exercise.
- Trash, Lack of Respect for Land
- Signage
- Infrastructure to support recreation (signage, maps, toilets, etc.)
- Active plan on how agencies deal with misuse of lands.
- Improving communications with public
- Website needs work.
- Coordination with volunteer organizations
- Keep it open – especially Pipestone for side by sides.
- Noxious weed control
- Camping/fishing access around lakes
- Communication
- Expand trail system.

- Crowding and overuse
- Grade the road to Pipestone.
- Relationship between BLM and USFS (especially around Pipestone)
- Better interpretive signs at historic sites
- Access
- Impact on county roads – maintenance costs
- Fire management – interagency cooperation
- Management of noxious weeds
- Increased trail maintenance
- New trails
- Make it accessible.
- Education – respect for the land
- Loop trails
- Shared use-multiple use
- Law Enforcement
- Some places to be alcohol free to reduce bad behavior.
- Overtime camping – people overstaying the 14-day limit.
- Pack it in, pack it out
- Leave no trace principle education.
- Safety education (i.e. avalanche safety and trail etiquette), could be offered as a course through partnerships.
- Pipestone – open more trails with varying difficulty levels.
- Being present to the community
- A variety of recreation opportunities

- Keep lands as clean as possible (litter free)
- Equal access for e-bikes (type 1)
- Designated areas for sport shooting
- No e-biking
- Impacts of human activity on wildlife
- BLM and USFS need to work together.
- Need expansion of campgrounds
- “Duky” bridge infrastructure – more roads
- Infrastructure maintenance
- Supervision because of so many visitors
- White River area - Firebreak causes road confusion.
- White River area – Gates not open during snow time

#### **Q5 – Boundaries**

- No
- Use OnX app to track boundaries.
- If informed of the intentions of the land designation, I attempt to match the goals with my own conduct.
- No, signage is minimal. Need areas better defined.
- Yes. Fees and activities allowed. Don’t want to trespass.
- Depends on my activity
- Not always marked
- Yes, I am aware of boundaries and various jurisdictions. Access to isolated parcels is important.
- Signs and boundary markings

- Sometimes signage is sparse in areas so difficult to know who's managing at times.
- BLM land sometimes can feel less "managed" than a "wilderness" areas.
- Sometimes I am aware (i.e. pay attention to public/private land)
- often doesn't change perception
- Most of the time I am not aware of the boundaries, but if I am aware of what type of land I'm in it might change my behaviors depending on new regulations.
- I rarely know the difference between who's land I'm on, however if I did, I don't believe I would make much of a change on what I do as I believe my actions aren't very abrasive.
- Yes. Know regulations and use ethics of both public and private lands. Respect for land (whether public or private) boundaries, etc. Treat those lands all the same.
- Improve signage
- Yes, BLM manages large acreages and has large annual budgets
- Yes, I am very aware- however typical recreationalists don't care- trespass on private, do whatever they want on BLM
- OHV use disregards land use designations and ride wherever they want. Including trespassing of private lands. Creating conflicts and environment consequences
- Standardize use policy be consistent crossing BLM to US Forest does not influence my use
- I rely on digital mapping to recognize boundaries, but I feel I'm probably a minority. Need signage that includes boundaries and land use rules.
- Are you kidding- nobody pays attention to any of this. They go to ride and could care less about politics
- No, only on GPS. No signage. But the numbering system is different in USFS
- Do not know
- USFS and BLM need cooperative management agreement for Pipestone.
- Boundaries are rarely clearly marked

- Update electronic platforms
- Education and tools such as onX
- Slowing down for private property or slowing down for range land
- Paying attention to signage delegation boundaries
- Absolutely- it is critical as a public landowner that we respect private lands and tread through easement areas with caution
- The administrative boundaries or land designation are clearly marked. If I see one I adhere to common sense rules and respect the land.
- Slower speeds over easements
- Differing laws and regs
- We are aware because we pay for software that tells us but visitors and most of the public don't pay for and use that software.
- In pipestone area it seems apparent
- We try and respect the management areas... sometimes better signage would be helpful
- Education and enforcement of private land is needed. Being a land owner in pipestone this is a huge issue with no ability to enforce.
- Better signage
- Yes. By self-education recreate according to land management, the protocols, differ between agencies.
- Hard to understand without education present at site of impact/ use, QR codes could be helpful
- I find that BLM and FS tend to be inconsistent. It would be great to see cooperation.
- More available trails
- Yes, it dictates speed and noise.
- Land use for resources (firewood)
- More free mapping would be nice.

- Yes, I do my best to respect the different rules
- Better signage
- Yes, not much difference, respect everyone's trails/lands
- I am aware of the different land designations, but really only in the last 6 years. It would be beneficial to know who represents which area. I would love to have the opportunity to know who is who and how to contact.
- Some boundaries are hard to decipher. GPS is definitely you're friend
- Generally, not at all. I see some boundary signs but they are usually old and shot up and I know from experience people move these signs to cut public use off. Generally, I know public lands but mostly not difference between Fs and BLM or state lands.
- I use OnX hunt to be knowledgeable.
- Need to know to understand trespassing
- BLM road signs need to tell us if area is open or not
- Users are responsible to know restrictions
- Nice to have signs when crossing into different lands
- Have respect for ALL lands
- Don't always know where they are
- Interagency cooperation could make it easy to move between differently managed landscapes
- Digital maps are helpful, but not all have these tools
- Appreciate additional signage in Sheep Mountain (although some have already been vandalized).
- Fewer rules on BLM makes it more chaotic on the land
- Rules need to be known as you transition from one management area to another
- Pipestone – BLM manages well, Trails cross boundaries, active management by USFS does not exist

- No idea when boundaries change
- Rules change with boundaries
- Digital apps help
- Need to know rules
- Currently research is on your own – OnX could help
- Makes access more difficult since one has to pay for OnX
- Inconsistency between BLM and USFS – need interagency cooperation especially for Pipestone area
- OHVs should slow down on private land and range land
- Make information accessible with QR codes
- Yes I am aware but it doesn't change anything
- Activity dependent – hunting I have to be aware of boundaries
- Water launch sites – need to know regulations for parking vehicles
- Private land is not always marked
- Need easements for land-locked parcels
- Don't change use – let us go where it is legal to go
- More interagency cooperation on defining boundaries, especially when there is snow on the ground

#### **Q6 – Community Qualities**

- Lack of People
- Mostly quality of recreation
- Less saturated w/ people
- Better quality of life. Whereas people are impediments and in the way in urban spaces, here they are far apart and a joy to spot.
- You can go from the lake to the mountains in one day.



- Proximity, convenience, and access to public lands
- Sparsely populated
- Trails accessible easily
- Easy, close access to public lands, wildlife and hunting opportunities- freedom of public lands.
- Being able to have somewhere to go. Without being a giant landowner.
- Proximity to such great public land, both in terms of quantity and quality
- Beauty of landscape
- Public land access
- Easy to maintain mental and physical health through outdoor rec
- General public support for public lands
- I just recently moved here for the summer, and one thing I like about the land is how accessible the land is and how pretty it is.
- I like how healthy the public land is.
- Open space
- Access to wide range of recreation.
- Sustains private commercial efforts- mainly cattle ranches.
- Community interest and support of public lands
- Wildlife, fishing, and other natural opportunities.
- Variety of access to outdoor activities
- Reasonable user fees
- Proximity
- Great views
- Quiet, not over-run

- Close access to BLM and USFS lands- hiking snowshoeing
- Varying landscapes and diversity
- Open space allowing sense of freedom
- Trail system availability
- Close access
- Beauty of the floral and the view shed
- Great views
- Opportunity to walk and bike, e-bike on developed trails and roads
- Variety of landscapes to recreate on to enjoy natural processes, serenity, dispersed recreation.
- Accessibility and diversity
- Great terrain- Good trails, public/social commitment to maintaining
- Brad is a great manager
- Scenery
- Access to public lands
- Lots of motorized trails
- Multiple riding areas
- Low population
- Middle of Montana-close to outdoor opportunities
- Access to public lands
- Affordable cost of living in Great Falls
- If it weren't for public lands, I'd move.
- Larger amounts of motorized access with smaller population density. Especially beneficial for people with limited mobility to access

- Natural landscapes
- Provides peace, quiet, see the beauty
- It's beautiful, there's a wide variety of ways to recreate. It's accessible to all.
- I really appreciate the balance of mixed use, through specific trails for certain vehicle types and grazing/range land for ranchers.
- Riding dirt bikes
- I enjoy the offroad trails.
- Getting out of the cities
- Enjoying motor sports
- Getting left alone
- Out of office
- Access to so many different types of places to recreate
- Creates healthy family activities
- Creates healthy friend activities
- exploring open trails that are multi-use
- Teaching geography and geology as well as other life lessons
- Thriving small communities- we benefit by using them.
- Enjoying the outdoors with our families, safely. Side by side and drinking has challenged this. Would like everyone to have equal opportunity to recreate to their own liking safely.
- Availability to outdoor recreation. Golf, e-biking, dirt biking
- Dirt bike/offroad
- Year-round recreation opportunities. Easy access for lots of users
- Signage on trail difficulties and vehicle access
- Year-round use

- The access. I drive full size 4x4 and Butte is the closest area to me since Bozeman has closed many trails
- Recreation in the outdoors and getting away from the business of life.
- Freedom to recreate as we please
- Landscape
- Local feel
- Open riding space for entire family
- Camping/family activities
- Local small town feel
- Very diverse recreational opportunities. The ability to go from the lake to the mountains in the same day.
- Given Butte is a mining town, and the destruction to the landscape, it is wonderful to know the beauty and recreational offerings are nearby and protected. I feel Butte offers the best of both the city-type feel with the mountains and waterways.
- Open access to public lands, undisturbed general scenery of the mountains, hills and the waterways. Economic effects from public lands, hunting fishing and recreation.
- Public lands
- Not fighting for parking
- Access
- Not crowded
- Abundance of recreation opportunities close by
- Friendly people
- Lack of crowded space
- Mining culture of Butte
- Wild people

- Tight knit community
- UTV and ATV opportunities
- Quality place to live
- Safe, hardworking, sense of community
- Wide range of recreation opportunities (rafting, hunting, motorized recreation, hiking)
- It is not all private land, there are places to go on public lands
- Not having to pay for recreation access
- Different seasons
- Great views
- Quiet, serene
- Safe from fire because of active agency efforts
- Proximity to public lands, close access
- Variety of opportunities
- Variety of landscapes
- Dynamic landscapes AND communities
- It is loved to death – hard to keep pace with the needs of recreation visitors
- Visitors are not always respecting the lands AND local communities – COVID was the tipping point
- OHV users may be worse on rules and respect in Sheep Mountain
- Very reasonable user fees
- Access to public lands
- Lower population density
- Lots of motorized trails – can take elderly and handicap to share landscape
- Variety of landscapes creates a variety of recreational opportunities

- Proximity to public lands
- Cold windy winters keeps people away.
- Population boom in Broadwater County – major challenge to provide services, lack of revenue stream
- People are coming for open space/public lands
- Snowmobile in am, golf in pm
- Want to be left alone
- Fewer rules
- Butte has more trails OPEN
- Year-round recreational opportunities for lots of uses
- Everyone gets a chance to use the land
- Agencies use closure to manage lands (negative)
- Recreation patronizes local businesses – especially motorized
- Multiuser-multiuse balance in Pipestone
- Out of city – can get away quickly
- Some trails were single use so they decrease conflict
- Close and convenient, easy access
- The people
- Love how alive everything is
- Public lands means freedom – they are everybody's place
- Breadth of recreational opportunities
- Support for using public lands
- Scenic, less transportation congestion
- Low population

- No cell service (benefit)
- More convenient because public lands so close

#### **Q7 – Public Lands effects on Community**

- Lets you be able to experience nature
- Motorized access disturbs peace for non-motorized users
- A senator once described public lands as the last defense against the country becoming an all out penal colony
- Gives time to relax
- Proximity, convenience, and access to public lands
- Sparsely populated
- Reduce stress
- Freedom- I love to hunt, fish, and hike. Public lands are the place I pursue the best things in my life. Improves mental and physical health.
- I moved here in large for the public land. I come from a state that is 97% Private.
- As someone who moved here to be near public land, it improves my life in every way, especially when considering physical and mental wellbeing. Spending time in nature/ outdoors is one of the few scientifically proven remedies for many of these issues.
- Overall mental/physical health
- Community value of outdoor rec
- I feel amazing when I'm out doing stuff in public lands. So whenever I'm stressed or feeling sad in town its really nice to be able to just get away from it
- Makes it better
- In this area it is critical. Opportunities are huge and the predominant culture of the community is geared to the outdoors, year-round.
- Significantly! I use trails at a local (Helena) developed sites nearly every day. I'm a walker and these trails for exercise, bird watching, mental health.

- Proximity to public lands private
- Wellbeing and mental health + physical
- Good- Calming views, quiet, mountains are my happy place
- Bad- motorized use riders are a huge frustration
- Public lands have very high value for my quality of life. The positive attributes afforded by open space, views, contours features of the terrain enhances my mental and physical well being.
- I live in the city limits and can hike, e-bike in both BLM and forest service properties.
- Provide many places enjoy natural
- I'm supposed to say how its enriching but I'm affected by the overuse and things like riding off-trail, reducing vegetation and generally tearing up the land.
- On the plus side, again, accessibility and diversity
- Without public lands there would be no reason to live
- They are extremely important! Not enough opportunities!
- Same
- Stress relief
- Connecting with family on larger remote pieces of land. Without the public land, few families would be able to afford these types of get-togethers.
- The public lands and wide-open spaces are so important
- It allows us to recreate without having to own private property
- In winter months it provides recreation without monetization
- It allows us to recreate without having to own private property
- In winter months it provides recreation without monetization
- Public lands promote recreation and healthy lifestyles, which is critical for positive for positive mental health and physical health.



- Off-roading is my primary form of recreation. If it were to be restricted, I would leave the area
- More trails- more fun
- Pass it on
- Stress relief
- Family time
- Generational traditions
- Using public lands gives us a better quality of life. Teaches our children similar skills these lands help decrease stress and encourage resilience.
- This is critical to quality of life. Open trail use for all.
- Health benefits
- money spent in local towns
- Stress relief
- Family and friends getting out and enjoying what we love most!
- Closures have huge impacts having to travel for open trails
- Access to all makes it better for all. Benefits communities, and helps people enjoy life.
- Stress relief
- Helps get away from people
- It provides a positive outlet for myself and others to enjoy life
- Life long friends
- get to beautiful areas we wouldn't see otherwise
- keeps kids off drugs
- I grew up riding dirt bike etc.... I passed this along to my kids and grandkids. We camp together. Great family time.

- Mountains are used to very little restrictions. Open public lands are a basis of our culture.
- Uncrowded open lands. The area is not overpopulated or overcrowded. I feel the public lands in and out of this BLM office give residents and non-residents the ability to enjoy, but not put the lands at risk.
- I live and retired in this area as a result of the quality of life presented by the public lands. Economic support, openness and ability to use. with good management direction.
- The amount of private lands are becoming more and more. It's nice to have the ability to access these public lands
- I know "locals" do not want outsiders in their area, we have so much I hope it does infringe on the "locals"
- Hunting, fishing, horseback riding, side-by-side driving all on public lands
- Sunday drives
- Wilderness areas
- Raising kids in the outdoors so they can experience these things too
- OHV use on trails adjacent to neighbor's property often use that property as additional trail. They need to stay on designated public trails
- It contributes to the quiet, scenery, and recreation opportunities of living here
- It helps with wellbeing both physical and mental health
- Remote, solitude, lack of development and dispersed recreation are part of local public lands
- Social trails make me mad
- People don't respect each other or the landscape
- Money changed access on land
- Public land is available to all
- Smith River Permit system decreases access

- USFS is uninvolved
- Preserved in natural state
- A way to pass stories on to our kids
- Build and maintain friendships
- Exercise
- Grazing supports neighbors and open spaces
- Public lands make me feel better reduce my stress
- Taking care of mental and physical health needs
- It is a contrast from urban experiences
- ATVs too fast – they have no respect and we (locals) have no recourse
- The BLM and USFS are not present on the landscape (negative)

#### **Q9 – SRMA Zones**

- Pipestone is in a rain shadow that makes it a seasonally dry area
- Upper Big Hole offers close fishing and beautiful scenery
- Delmo Lake and 4 corners offer picnic tables and toilets
- Forest Service trails are planned, BLM trails seem like unplanned social trails
- Pipestone – variety of OHV opportunities
- Humbug Spires – wilderness, remote, not crowded at all
- McMaster Place – another site for horseback riding, navigation beacons and historical connections
- Have never heard of SRMA designation

#### **Q9 – Special Qualities**

- Fishing
- Beauty/scenic

- Camping
- Trail riding
- Beauty
- Lush
- Diverse
- The climbing
- A rare place to open water swim
- Good water quality/temperature
- Scratch Gravel-daily exercise and dog walking
- Lands other than SRMA's: Wildlife values, hunting, hiking, solitude, dispersed camping, fishing, elkhorns management unit.
- I enjoy the Scratch Gravel because they are close to town and are usually not crowded. I enjoy hiking/ running and biking out there.
- The proximity to our house
- The diversity of the trails (I like that they feel a little rugged and wild compared to the South Hills trails)
- The abundance of wildflowers
- The different trailheads that all connect.
- It's where we go to walk, run or ride after work and decompress/catch up on our days
- Because I am living here, I am able to really explore it and get to know the landscape (i.e. find trails no one else knows etc.)
- Various utilize both SRMA's as well as dispersed areas throughout the Butte Area. Important areas such as wilderness study areas as well as the ACEC in the Elkhorns which is part of the Elkhorn wildlife management unit. Also numerous BLM sites along the Missouri and Madison and Big Hole Rivers. Hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, land watching.
- Close to my home

- Wildlife (birds, mammals)
- Lack of crowds
- Excellent trails
- Rock Climbing
- Beautiful Views
- Great hiking trails
- Remoteness
- Unique geology
- Open space
- Panoramic views
- Scratch Gravel bike trails
- Scratch Gravel viewshed
- Scratch Gravel, close proximity to my residence
- Proximity to city limits
- Length of riding season
- I live adjacent to it. It is no longer special at all with the new trail system decision!! Big mistake.
- Accessibility and diversity and the development of new trails. I see bikers, hikers, runners, and equestrian use. I love to see this. I just want to avoid user conflict and designate specific trails to specific user groups. I'm also happy to see over the course of six years how the land has been cleaned-up
- Pipestone area
- Open year round! This is one of the few places in the region that the snow does not stay. Geography is unique.
- Hunting

- Fishing
- Open trails
- Scenery
- Family and friends, memories
- Maps- accurate
- Good system trails
- Camping-uncrowded
- Large amounts of available trails
- Quality trail system
- Lower density of users on weekdays
- Good roads for access
- I prefer simple camping areas (not KOA's type areas)
- Not coming across width restriction gates everywhere. I can still take my full-size jeep on trails there. More jeep trails would be ideal
- Availability of different difficulties. I would love more difficult trails, but there still is some that you can challenge your skills on.
- Access to dispersed camping and cool geological features to explore
- It was the first place I ever went off-roading, its nostalgic, I enjoy sharing this area with new people.
- People are friendly
- I grew up recreating these areas through offroad vehicles and I met my wife while recreating there; it is incredibly nostalgic for me. It is a fantastic central location for lots of users to share, which makes it a great place to be.
- The diversity in the landscape and the quality of the trails is good.
- Close to multiple communities

- Gives me peace being out in the wild
- It helps build friendships
- I like seeing new things
- Open trails
- Use of all types
- We can do the following all on these lands:
- Dirt biking
- Rock-hounding
- Crystal hunting
- Walking
- Fishing
- Biking
- E-biking
- Camping
- Being a landowner in pipestone
- Being a landowner in pipestone. It is an incredibly special place to me, my family, and friends. Everyone being able to safely recreate is critical to preserving this. Please designate single track usage so I don't have to see a child get on a head on with a side by side with a drunk driver. Keep open for all but in a safe, long-term manner. Regulate camping (Space, length of stay). Litter. Trail use. Respect for private land.
- Dirt biking, e-biking. A lot of memories made in pipestone. Friendships have grown out of this place as well as a place for the whole family to get out and enjoy the outdoors.
- Ability to explore
- Varied riding trails, camping opportunities, all weather use.
- Camping trails

- Scenery
- Geological areas designated
- Signage with restrictions and difficulty levels
- No artificial restricted width
- Centerpiece b/w towns
- The range of trails and the variety of obstacles. The terrain and views are amazing. I have many family memories there and many more I look forward to making.
- It's so open to any type of recreational use
- Variety of trails for entire family
- Easy to ride
- Nice camping/lake access
- Geologic features/views
- They are more open to keeping trails open and not managing by closure.
- The J area is very critical to the Elkhorns and may be a scattered responses.
- For me it is close proximity and availability, whether it be for fishing, floating, camping or enjoying the beauty and wildlife.
- The Elkhorns are a nationally recognized wildlife area and administration is coordinated between the FS, BLM, State, NRCS for consistency and support. It is critical that this coordination be enhanced.
- Sheep Mountain – geology, climbing on spires
- Sheep Mountain – Disc golf course is heavily used
- Sheep Mountain – lots of “normal” use
- Sheep Mountain – OHV designation draws lots of people
- Sheep Mountain, Humbug Spire and Pipestone – excellent rock-climbing
- Bird watching along the Missouri River – great variety



- Memories of family and friends enjoying it
- Scenery
- Wildlife
- Quality trail system
- Accurate Maps
- Uncrowded
- Copper City bike park is great but increases need for search and rescue and road needs ambulance access
- Appreciate relationship between BLM and County
- Multi-use – Trail running, Mountain Biking, Cross Country skiing
- Pipestone – signage showing rules
- Exploring new places, getting lost
- Pipestone – recreating with family and friends on trails – safety is important
- Nostalgic – memories of first ride and sharing that with others
- No artificial restrictions – pinch points; USFS does this – regulations for the sake of regulations
- Pipestone – centerpiece for multiple communities
- It is not all locked up
- I can catch really big fish there
- Canyon ferry – opportunity for cold water swimming at scale
- So much alive – bugs and more – “Everything is dead in Wyoming”
- Scratch Gravel history
- Tons of dispersed BLM land that is equally important

## Q11 – Diminish

- Overcrowding
- Development
- Being overly restrictive on use
- Lots of people/ overcrowding of infrastructure
- Too much motorized vehicle access
- People- too many
- Private land development
- Overdevelopment which could be staved off by using scenic climbing as an excuse.
- Overcrowding
- Garbage
- Pollution, invasive species (mussels, water weeds), more harmful algae blooms, overdevelopment along the water.
- Too many high-speed boats
- People that do not appreciate the land. Loud, drinking, litter
- Too many people.
- Lack of wildlife.
- Development for intensive recreation ruins many public land areas.
- Overdevelopment, from both buildings and too much recreation
- Restricting access for dogs
- Overdevelopment that may restrict access (housing, etc.) or too many trails
- Poor etiquette on the part of the users
- Overuse w/o proper infrastructure (for the size)

- Too many people and dogs are not allowed. My dog is an incredibly important part of outdoor rec for me for reasons such as safety and emotional fulfillment.
- If there was a lot of people or was a lot of pollution.
- Garbage
- Too many people
- Unmanaged and wide-open access and use by any and all for all activities. Allowing activities that negatively impact the resource- land, water, wildlife, irresponsible development activities (Poor mining and grazing) overdevelopment for recreation that changes the quality of the resource and user experience.
- Restricting e-bikes from Scratch Gravel
- More people/ visitors
- More ORV use
- Higher user fees
- Noise from OHV use
- Human waste/trash
- OHV, specifically moto and ATV going off designated routes and damaged land
- Moto and ATV using BLM trails to enter my property, ignoring no trespassing signage
- Overuse
- Disregard for designated use areas by many users
- Trash and various waste from dryland campers
- Overuse
- Precluding the use of my e-bike on the trails. E-bikes do not degrate trails any more or differently than trailhead mtn bikes
- Trash
- E-bikes do not go faster downhill then traditional mtn bike

- The fact that the new SRMA plan for Scratch Gravel restricts the use of e-bike for all users. As a minimum they should allow e-bike for aged or ADA individuals.
- It is diminished with the new trail density planned
- Making it fee-based
- User conflict
- Motorized- People are angry due to closures and anti-government for this reason. Keep it open!
- Commercialization
- Rentals
- Guides
- Trail poaching
- If it became overly commercialized
- Fire
- Closing it down
- Locked gates
- Blocking access
- Lawlessness
- Lack of respect for area
- Lack of respect for others
- Lack of consideration for others
- Lack of full use
- Development
- Limiting access for motorized vehicles, which in turn limits access for those with mobility issues.
- Overcrowding

- Closure
- Development i.e. making trails easier for broader range of users- I like being challenged and putting my skills to the test.
- Improper use, destroying trails and surrounding land
- Development of private buildings or homes
- Lack of public access would kill the sentiment for me- Without access to the land for recreation in the manner which we historically do, it will no longer be utilized in a responsible manner.
- More regulations!!! Education is awesome, regulations just lock stuff down.
- If the trails are poorly managed. Many of the trails in Montana are seeing more use. If they are poorly managed they will inevitably close.
- Restrictions
- Pricy stickers for registration tickets
- People not respecting the land and other riders
- Closing trails
- Fire
- Closures to currently open land
- Fire
- Lack of trail maintenance
- Lack of business support in the area due to closure
- Closing trails
- Lack of law and order
- Long term campers-leaving trash, over-staying the 2 week max
- Shutting down trails
- Continued chaos- drinking and driving, camping anywhere and everywhere.

- Trash.
- Lack of education of those using the trails (ie renters)
- Forest fire
- Biggest closer of trails
- Shutting it down
- Too many rules and taking away the freedom we have in pipestone
- More restrictions
- less trails
- user conflicts
- Forest fires
- Closing it off or shutting it down/ restrictions
- More restrictions.
- Trail closures.
- Too much government red tape
- More restrictions and closures
- Closures of any kind
- Road/trail closure
- Restrictions
- More restrictions
- Overuse and misuse.
- Trash, overuse
- Keeping the area(s) safe, I am not referring to wildlife, just idiots.

- Lack of BLM active participation as a full partner in management participation with the other agency neighbors. Uncontrolled or loss of off-road control enforcement, loss of campsite use and uncontrolled trail use.
- groups too large
- Overcrowding
- Campgrounds can get trashy
- Shooting marmots for dinner – LEO issue
- Increased development and subdivisions
- Forest fires and uncleared brush
- More licensing and fees
- Need toilets at Pipestone
- More trails for side-by-sides
- How do e-bikes fit into this – they can cause as much erosion as a dirt bike
- Fees are okay if they fund resources
- Permits limit access
- Sheep Mountain – Traffic problems – increased when BLM closed Scratch Gravel to OHV use
- Scratch Gravel – I mountain bike there and extended my career mountain biking by buying an e-bike. Restrictions there decreased access to the area I love
- Density of Trails
- Like the new focus on recreation development, but should consider impact on previous recreation experiences – remoteness is often lost
- Human waste and trash
- People overstaying limits on length of stay rule
- Lack of respect for the land

- Combination of proximity to urban areas and dry climate – people are tempted to use OHVs in damaging ways
- Blocked access
- Locked gates
- Criminal activity – meth use, etc. at Pipestone
- Pipestone - Overcrowded, well-known, Lack of infrastructure to handle crowds
- Commercialization – rental machines, cabins, etc.
- Lack of respect for land and people
- Teenagers partying and sniffing glue
- Fire
- Road Quality
- Noxious Weeds
- Fire
- Crowding
- Lack of facilities were a problem in the past, but better now
- People encroaching on private property
- Massive campsite at bottom of Pipestone
- People do not know rules and activities (visitors, not locals)
- Closing trails
- Forest fire
- Damage to soil and vegetation
- People who do not know where to go or how to operate rental machines – a safety issue (education is solution)
- No course available for safety riding – safety is needed to pass our sport on to our kids



- Pipestone - Getting too crowded – open more opportunities/places to ride
- Thank you to partners who maintain trails
- Water pollution, invasive species, algae blooms, overdevelopment on water's edge
- Too many trails, trying to cater to too many people in one place
- Overcrowding due to the pandemic
- Inappropriate use, bad etiquette
- Folks new to outdoor recreation need to be more respectful
- Protect the resource
- Irresponsible development – grazing and mining
- Exorbitant fees hurts equality of access
- Other's obnoxiousness makes it difficult to enjoy my recreational experience
- White River area – 3 ranches hold most of the land in the entire valley
- When ranches go out of business the land gets locked up
- Conservation leasing (negative)

#### **Q16-18 Benefits**

- Mental health
- Preserve cultural heritage
- Time with family
- Increased desirability of place to live
- Can still go outside in a pandemic
- Too many people

#### **Q21 – Missing Services**

- No
- Grocery stores

- Signage and outhouses
- Trail Maintenance
- Gyms
- Current information about water temperature and water quality and presence of HAB's
- No. Less service the better.
- Updated signage or current info.
- Would like more info in the form of signage, kiosks, free maps at kiosks, etc.
- I feel like most of the time I have a pretty successful experience
- Rarely service/cellular coverage is not needed, although helpful for digital maps.
- Greater publicity of the BLM what it is, what it does, what BLM lands are, and intentions of that use.
- Not really
- Trailheads
- Parking with pit latrines
- Toilets
- Pit toilets!!! At SRMA sites
- Hmm. I think just hours or days of operation. I don't get why some facilities are completely closed on Sunday, when a lot of folks are out trying to recreate.
- Road maintenance to campground
- No! Does not need more development
- No
- Trail access from Lake Delmoe to the trail system
- Education
- More trails

- More trails!!!
- Education
- Toilets at trailheads or entrances- human waste on trail ruins the experience, it's hard to pee outside as a female
- People not having education on leave no trace or OHV safety
- Enforcement of regulations
- Toilets at trailheads are key to minimizing human waste impacts and are unfortunately lacking
- education is hugely lacking.
- No
- OHV Dirt bike track like Hungry Horse
- I think that speed limit signs should be utilized. I also believe that trails should be named and have proper designation should be made clear.
- Required education
- Good TP
- Keep UTV guy off the trail with out education
- LEO
- Assigned camping and responsibility for that area
- A more designated campground with better pit toilets would be good.
- More LEO presence to help cut down on drunk driving.
- Do more directional trails.
- Designate some trails for young children that are only one way loops
- Law enforcement
- Strictly dirt bike use trail
- Maps

- More signage to explain access
- Educational resources more easily available
- Loading/Unloading ramps
- Wash stations
- Solid waste disposal. Some more restrooms.
- Potable waters across sites
- Nothing is missing, I like the self-reliant aspects of Wise River, Wisdom and Divide. The distance means you have to plan. It keeps the riff-raff away (i.e. huge RVs and fair-weather campers)
- Lack of cell phone service is a benefit
- Mechanical pump for potable water
- Vaulted outhouses
- Website is not helpful
- Connect Whitehall to Pipestone
- Copper city is a rattlesnake area, needs warning signs
- Lodging is an issue in Townsend
- Cell service and helipad at Copper City Bike trail
- Camping – dispersed or sited at Copper City
- People that are new to the area need more information on what is available and what the rules are on BLM lands

#### **Q14 – Use change**

- I think about vegetation and waterway destruction. I'm not sure if destruction is the correct word, but the impacts to vegetation and waterways.
- Overall use has increased, certain types are ok but some are unacceptable. Use of off-road types vehicles is a real challenge on driving for pleasure, now it is driving for self-

defense on many days. Camping needs attention to develop more acceptable sites and not just let it happen in many cases places not good sites.

- Use has significantly increased making it somewhat worse because people are being pigs, not respecting the land, tearing it up, UTVs and ATVs going off-trail
- Use has increased because housing is cheap compared to other states and this leads to heavier use on public lands from those moving in,
- Increased population due to COVID has also increased homeless presence on public lands
- Camping spots are getting busy and more played out
- Slight increase made it worse at pipestone
- Particularly in May
- Erosion harder to control
- Crowded
- No one used to go there in my childhood
- Too crowded to bring wife, kids and grandkids there
- Lots of drinking
- People don't respect other people there
- Increased and worse because people are poaching in new trails
- Increased side-by-side use changes the size of the trails (still good because it is motorized use)
- Depends on the use – mostly OHVs make it worse and other uses make it better
- Better – gives folks a place to recreate
- COVID and Social Media attracted a lot of new visitors
- More people has made it worse
- Trout numbers going down from overfishing

- Lack of BLM enforcement at campgrounds and on river – enforcement that exists is not “fair”

#### **Q22 – Barriers to Recreation**

- Not enough time or money
- Time/money/youth when hunting
- Too old
- I have private land options
- Congestion
- Not sure if it is safe or you can park to camp
- Lack of information on camping
- Fire danger changes – need to communicate the change

#### **Q23 – Improvements**

- More hiking/backpacking areas
- Better interagency info on permits for events
- More designated wilderness areas
- More people on the ground
- Trailhead maps that actually show the trails instead of just an area map.
- Contact info at parking areas for reporting maintenance issues or invasive species.
- Community partnership and engagement volunteerism
- Better trail markings
- Recognize that when it comes to recreation, often less is more. Recreation has adverse effects to wildlife. Protect, steward wildlife, water quality and other natural resources.
- Active patrolling
- Presence of BLM at/on the lands it manages around Helena (rangers, signage)

- Better trail workings
- Improve online information.
- I would have written about places being dog friendly but the Helena community is just not dog friendly
- Having better information about recreational areas around my location
- People who are not engaged in outdoor rec don't have a clue what the BLM is, what it does, what the land is. Butte office needs way more public info efforts. A lot of confusion with USFS, DNRC, etc.
- Allow use of e-bikes on BLM trails
- Be more responsive to public concerns.
- More intensive oversight of seasonal employees and the decisions they make in managing rec sites
- Infrastructure for rock climbing areas
- Trails
- pit toilets
- signage
- Regional district BLM needs to provide more funding to Butte Field Office
- Butte FO needs infrastructure funds to support some of these SRMA areas- the agency is inviting users to those areas and there are responsibilities associated with that
- Allowing class 1 (pedal assist) e-bikes on trails. Per DOT- not a motorized vehicle; classified as a bike. E-bike a great equalizer and allows stronger riders to enjoy riding with weaker riders. Example 1) is my wife and I. 2) my 50-year-old son- I (I'm 76) e-bike allows a compatible ride. Closing notes- 1) e-bikes are quiet and emit no exhaust or fumes. 2) even though I'm ADA allowed to ride, but this privileged should not be an exception.
- Allow e-bikes where bikes are permitted. All decision makers should experience class 1 e-bike before they make a use decision.

- Pit toilets at ECHO and/or head lane and be signage. I'd be completely lost out there w/o Trailforks app
- Collaboration with MTVRA volunteers
- Could pipestone be an open OHV riding area? No designated routes? Too many trails to manage.
- Area do not travel management on USFS
- Add new areas of trails for motorized use
- No, closure- education is so that people don't tear it up
- Increased LEOs to help keep vandalism and rule breaking down
- Increased educational opportunities for LNT and trail respect
- New trail maintenance to develop harder OHV trails, one-way trails, loop trails, signage
- Increased communication with other land-managing public agencies, especially USFS. BLM does a great job at managing lands by comparison and the USFS could learn a lot- People do not like closure.
- OHV Dirt bike track like Hungry Horse
- I would like more full-size vehicle hardcore jeep trails in the area. I would frequent the area more frequently if these were added.
- Give this recording to forest service/FWP
- Open more areas for OHV and keep the current ones open
- Law enforcement, drinking and driving
- More of the same... thanks for taking in all our ideas. We care about these communities and these places.
- I think having Keith Curtis pay for the road maintenance and require his customers to take a class first.
- Increased LEO on the ground.
- Please gravel the road more than 2x a year.



- Leaking sewage is gross
- Law enforcement, designated share use, respect of private lands
- Expand the number of recreation areas that are open. Spread the users over more areas.
- Increased educational resources
- Directional trails can be helpful
- For the most part I think the Butte BLM does a good job. I think the F/S is the problem. Opening more trails to match the population use.
- Signage
- Forest service being more involved
- Improve and open more trails
- maps would be local FS/BLM interagency maps also Digital use of GPS and OnX
- Other-heavy use of roads and heavy dust from them
- Need more of a presence. Sometimes I feel like no one is around managing these areas.
- The BLM is largely not visible nor present in the Townsend, Broadwater County public view. Coming to a commissioners' meeting once a year does not profile the BLM in the public arena here.
- Use of the Elkhorns and Limestone hills does not seem to be an active management vicinity by the butte Office.
- It would help to have a quarterly or bi-monthly presence to just hold public Q and A sessions to squelch rumors and misinform being passed around locally about use and BLM management.
- Road us is a biggie.
- Increased funding for LEOs
- Increase funding for recreation programs that clean up campgrounds
- USA Jobs – difficult to navigate and to pair outdoor folks with jobs

- Tech students could have a night at the university to direct them to seasonal jobs with BLM
- Alert folks regarding environmental degradation
- Land stewardship education
- Community action to help keep lands good
- BLM is more open, forgiving, friendly and receptive to motorized use
- More folks using OHV – more business – it brings people from 500 miles away to recreate
- County partnerships
- COVID hurt the groups that help steward public lands
- Example: East Fork Rock in Oregon is managed cooperatively between BLM and USFS as a system – could be a model for shared management in this field office – especially Pipestone
- Public would tolerate fees in exchange for better management
- “Brad Colins is a great manager”
- Increase single-track in Pipestone
- Take vandalism paint off rocks (Pipestone?)
- South Hills – Pricky pear damage – fencing is good
- Scratch Gravel – fencing to keep people on trails and off private land
- Infrastructure projects – road maintenance – funding increase to do all this
- Consider fee use areas to fund management if it is not in the budget
- District and state office to give more resources to the field office to do the work
- Interface between BLM and USFS – big disparity of resources to do work
- Interagency cooperation needs to increase (eg. Tizer Basin and Lesley Lake in the Elkhorns – lack of maintenance of access especially on USFS roads)

- Spatial Scale of area means you need to rely on seasonal help. BLM needs more professional full time staff on patrol, getting out of the truck or off the ATV to talk to people
- Communication – Lack of information to public on meetings or other actions
- Sheep Mountain – lots of visitors from all over
- Interagency cooperation
- Expansion of public lands – but should wait until we take care of what we have already
- Forst plan for BLM
- Special interest groups only interested in themselves
- Lawsuits prevent proper needed management
- More LEOs – especially in Pipestone
- Renegade riders going off trail – non-profits could offer reward to report bad behavior
- Partnerships needed to help enforcement, maintenance, etc.
- BLM helps promote responsible user groups
- Actie patrolling will help see problems early, keep trash at bay and offer a presence of the BLM in the field
- Partnerships to help build trails
- Signage with trails marked and information
- Trails on map are not the same as “real life” trails
- Better marking (signage) – newbies get lost and it can be scary

**Comments from quantitative questions (margin notes and other)**

- Scratch Gravel SRMA - had motorized at one time (n)
- Sleeping Giant/Missouri River SRMA - had motorized at one time (n)
- Scratch Gravel SRMA – Hiking and dog walking. Solitude wildlife hunting
- Pipestone - Homestone, Whiskey Gulch, Whitetail

- Upper Big Hole River SRMA – Rivan and Maiden-Float
- Other lands of interest – Indian Creek and Copper City
- Copper City
- Special qualities – other – Trail system
- Special qualities – other – I-15, Hwy 43, other side of Jackson
- Special qualities – other – Rock hounding, fishing, camping, dirt biking, e-biking, side by side
- Special qualities – other – Signage for width and difficulty
- Special qualities – other – The amount of trail access
- Special qualities – other – abandon mines are cultural resources
- Additional fees, permits, or restrictions are needed to manage increased crowding
- Unlimited access of all uses, Low maintenance at developed sites, lack of enforcement of regs by agency. (n)
- Lack of rules enforcement (n)
- Group size limits are too low (n)
- Environmental groups (n)
- Personal safety as other reason for diminishing specialness
- Additional fees, permits, or restrictions could help solve many issues, especially with education
- Camping over 14 days does not apply to some (n)
- Any scale of public lands to private owner(ship) (n)
- Limited access because of no e-bikes (n)
- Pollution, invasive species, more HAB's (n)
- Group size limits are too high (n)
- Any limits on group size (n)

- More people out on the trails that don't have respect or trail education, as well as more people leaving garbage everywhere (n)
- Too much use in a small area, open more areas (n)
- Density of trails user created trails (n)
- Moto and ATV is much worse. 1) lack of rules enforcement 2)Lack of proper signage to stay on designated routes (n)
- Too many people and not enough trails (n)
- Too many people in area- need more space (n)
- Need to open more trails (n)
- Less space as more people come (n)
- More people, no legal enforcement for people doing the right thing (Litter, camping damage, too many people in limited number of trails) (n)
- Increase in population (n)
- New users less considerate of existing use (n)
- Copper City – has become somewhat worse because of increased use
- Scratch Gravel – has become somewhat better because of increased use
- Increased natural resource extraction like firewood (n)
- More people means more people who are not educated on how to respectfully use land (n)
- The lack of education and larger groups of people recreating has resulted in a decreased in the proper use of trails (n)
- lots of users do not follow the rules and tread lightly (n)
- It is far more crowded than it has been historically, with that comes the outliers that are not respectful of the land (n)
- Overuse, especially with OHV rentals at trailheads (n)
- There are a lot of people in Pipestone area. We need more trails to disperse users.

- Need to open more trails so we can disburse more
- Once on the trails you don't see many people
- Enjoy sense of community but causing crowding/ safety incidents
- more use makes for less chance of trail closures. For the most part I find most people are nice. But we do need more trails. (p)
- What my family does- motorized recreation- have ridden MC since I was 7- also own SxS
- Wild meat is a personal benefit from recreation
- Dirt biking, e-biking
- Cycling
- Mountain biking
- Snowshoeing
- Dirt biking
- Side x side
- Dirt biking and mountain biking
- Firewood cutting
- Hunting for big game and birds
- Biking
- Full size jeep
- Relaxing on the beach or shore, enjoying the water and the sun
- Rock crawling a full size pickup
- Other information source – KTM
- Other information source – Friends of Pipestone Facebook
- Other information source – OnX
- Other information source– OnX maps/Google Earth

- Other information source– Map apps like Cal-topo and Gaia
- Other information source – I just figure it out or get lost
- Other Services used – a flat spot to camp
- Fewer services are better
- Other services used – hardware store
- Other services used – Outdoor stores
- Other services used – Trailheads/parking with pit latrines
- Other services used – recreational education
- Other services used – clubs
- Other services used - Current information about water temperature and water quality and presence of HAB's
- Work closer with OnX to get everything in the app
- Other barriers – age related!
- Other barriers – Terrible and difficult to navigate website
- Other barriers - Too many tourists with no knowledge in back country
- Other barriers - Restrictions on trail use
- Other barriers - Not having an off-road vehicle
- Other barriers - Air quality (from wildfire smoke), water quality
- Concern for lack of enforcement (BLM, FWP, all) is a barrier to recreation
- Not enough full-size difficult trails is a barrier to recreation
- Looking for full size challenge trails
- A lot of sites near Helena are not very dog friendly and the people are mean about it (n)