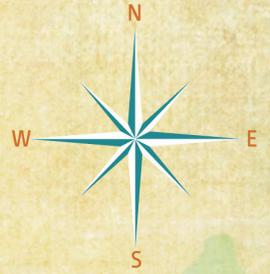


THE WHITEFISH RANGE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

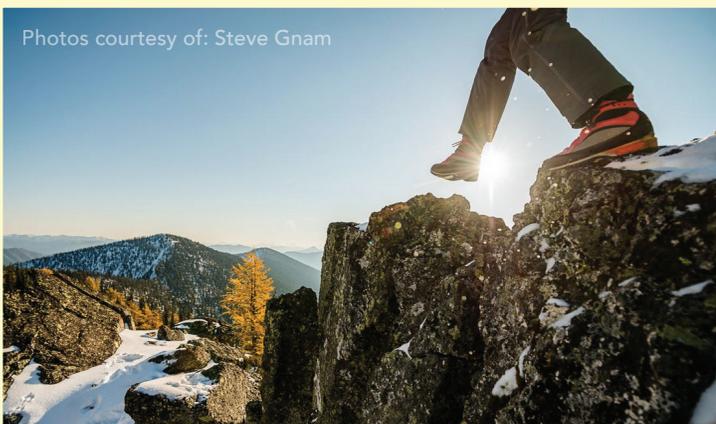
A community vision for a special place



Waterton - Glacier International Peace Park



Photos courtesy of: Steve Gnam



• THE WHITEFISH RANGE •

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

WRP MEMBERS:

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Chair

Rick Anderson
motorized recreation

Noah Bodman
Flathead Fat Tires

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former GNP Superintendent

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North Fork Compact

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Polebridge Mercantile

Cris Coughlin
*Montana Raft Co. &
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Columbia Falls Realtor

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Annemarie Herrod
North Fork landowners

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Flathead Snowmobile Association

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Cecily McNeil
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Chester Powell
Whitefish Mountain Resort

Debo Powers
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Amy Robinson
Montana Wilderness Association

Greg Schatz
Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead

Roger Sherman
Sustainability Fund, Lex Blood

Larry Timchak
Trout Unlimited

Steve Thompson
Whitefish Legacy Partners

Frank Vitale
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Bill Walker
North Fork Preservation Association

Larry Wilson
North Fork landowner

This map was produced by
Headwaters Montana
in partnership with the
Montana Wilderness Association

Illustration & design by
www.jennifergolandesign.com

04/2014

Summary of Individual Agreements

WILDLAND AND PRESCRIBED FIRE

The Partnership has agreed to manage fire using all the tools in the toolkit, including timber harvest, prescribed fire, and private landowner responsibility for managing fuels on their property and around their structures. This recommendation will help reduce the impact of wildfires, and their cost on everyone.

FISHERIES AND STREAMSIDE MANAGEMENT

The Partnership recommends maintaining current standards for streamside management, placing a high standard on retaining and improving native fish populations, and reducing wildfire effects on fish habitat. We also recommend Trail Creek and its tributaries as “eligible” under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. In addition, the Partnership recommends protecting water quality and quantity — as well as long-term timber and recreation opportunities — through adoption of specific land management policies as proposed in the North Fork Watershed Protection Act.

HI-INTENSITY RECREATION

The Partnership recommends a “Front Country Recreation” management area that includes Whitefish Mountain Resort and neighboring lands. This will allow better integration of recreation in the southern Whitefish Range for all users, especially mountain bikers and trail users.

SNOWMOBILING

The Partnership recommends improving snowmobile play areas in the southern Whitefish Range, while maintaining existing snowmobiling in the rest of the Range, in accordance with Amendment 24. This will provide a large increase in recreation opportunities for snowmobilers, and allow North Fork landowners to commute across national forest land.

SUMMER WHEELED MOTORIZED RECREATION

The Partnership recommends that the Flathead Forest assess possible opportunities for additional single-track motorcycle recreation in the southeast portion of the Whitefish Range.

TIMBER AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The Partnership recommends landscape-scale management to help ensure ecosystem resiliency and integrity, and commercial certainty for the timber industry. This recommendation would increase the potential “Suitable Timber Base” from 54,000 acres to 89,500 acres an increase of about 45 percent and potentially available once the grizzly bear is removed from the endangered species list.

BACKCOUNTRY TRAILS

The Partnership recommends providing a range of backcountry trail experiences, moving from hi-intensity use near Whitefish Mountain Resort in the south to more primitive experiences moving north. It also recommends a trails assessment in specific areas, looking at trail uses, trail reconstruction and/or new trail construction. These recommendations will provide improvements for the backcountry trail using public.

WEED MANAGEMENT

The Partnership recommends an adequately funded invasive species plan, based on front-country, backcountry, and river corridor management using public/private partnerships and an interagency network. This will lead to reducing or eliminating weeds to the benefit of private landowners and publicly owned lands.

WILDLIFE

The Partnership recommends maintaining the world-class wildlife habitat and wildlife populations found in the Whitefish Range. In particular, the Partnership recognizes the critical habitat found in portions of the northern range. These recommendations will benefit everyone and help maintain hunting, wildlife viewing, and habitat connection to Canada.

WILDERNESS

The Partnership recommends a wilderness section that includes a wilderness recommendation for the Hefty, Tuchuck and Thompson Seton roadless areas. It also provides important fire protection for North Fork landowners by adjusting recommended wilderness boundaries to provide a firefighting “buffer” around private property. This recommendation will ensure an enduring resource of wilderness in the Whitefish Range.

CONTACTS:

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Sarah Lundstrum, Secretary
(406) 862-6722

MEDIA COVERAGE LINKS:

http://www.flatheadbeacon.com/articles/article/after_the_timber_wars/36720/

http://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/longtime-whitefish-range-adversaries-celebrate-accord-on-land-use-plan/article_0c043518-54be-11e3-aadb-001a4b-cf887a.html