

NORTH FORK PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

77 Moose Creek Rd, Polebridge, MT 59928

January 30, 2017

To Bryan Donner, District Ranger at Eureka Ranger Station, Kootenai National Forest

NFPA is a conservation organization working to protect the wilderness character, watershed, and wildlife of the North Fork of the Flathead River Valley. Management of the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area is of great importance to us because of its close proximity to the North Fork across the Whitefish Divide. We appreciate the opportunity to submit the following comments on the **Ten Lakes draft travel plan**:

- **We strongly support Alternative 4** which is the only proposed alternative for managing the Ten Lakes WSA to protect solitude, wildlife habitat, and wilderness values. The entire 34,000 acres should be managed as Wilderness placing wildlife and wilderness values first.
- We strongly **support prohibiting motorized and mechanized recreation** in the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area. Approximately 90% of the 2.2 million-acre Kootenai Forest is already open to motorized and mechanized use. Your preferred alternative would open 60% of the Ten Lakes WSA to motorized and mechanized use and would result in fracturing the WSA into small, disjointed areas. This is unacceptable.
- We strongly **support protecting adjacent roadless areas** in the Blacktail Creek and Tuchuck areas for primitive wilderness values.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft travel plan. We hope that you will make a decision to protect the wilderness quality of the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area for future generations.

Sincerely,

Debo Powers, NFPA President

With approval of the NFPA Board of Directors