

**LAZYMEN AND JERICHO MOUNTAIN INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS – Helena Hunters & Anglers
email to Helena City Commission and Mayor Collins – and response from Commissioner Noonan**

From: Ed Noonan <ENOONAN@helenamt.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 11:21 AM
To: Gayle Joslin <joznpoz@bresnan.net>
Subject: Re: Helena Hunters - Tenmile-South Helena

Gayle,
I'm glad you took the time to send this information. Your thoughts and several other emails have given me a clearer sense of what the issues are in this matter. Some of the concerns I will bring up today.
Ed Noonan
Helena City Commission

From: Gayle Joslin <joznpoz@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 11:17 AM
To: mayorandcommission
Subject: Helena Hunters - Tenmile-South Helena

Dear Mayor Collins, and Commissioners Wicks, Haladay, Noonan, and O'Loughlin,

Upon reading the City's Public Service Announcement and Agenda for May 20th, I am concerned about the order of the meeting because after the 3rd Agenda item, City Manager's Report, the meeting will be closed for Executive Session to discuss *Helena Hunters and Anglers v. Marten et al*, Case No. 9:19-cv-00047-DL. However, pertinent information relative to that case may come to light only later when the public is allowed to comment. For that reason, I would like to submit information that you may find pertinent in the Commission's closed-door session.

First of all, I must introduce myself. My name is Gayle Joslin. I was born in Helena and have lived here nearly all of my life. For 50 of those years, my family lived in Travis Creek which is at the very center of what is now being called the Tenmile-South Helena project. I know this country well, and it has been extraordinarily good to us, having fed us from its bounty of deer and elk for all of those years.

As the first wildlife biologist assigned to the Helena Area by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, I have had the opportunity to study not only our wildlife populations, but also the landscapes and habitats upon which they rely. Relationships between people and wildlife are a foundation of this state, and define Montana on a national level. In fact, Helena was the first major city in the nation to develop an Urban Mule Deer Management Plan, and I was happy to be the wildlife biologist advisor in developing that Plan.

I am now retired from the State, but remain an active member of the Helena Hunters and Anglers Association. However, it is the *wild* component of wildlife and their roadless habitat that Helena Hunters Association (HHAA), is focused on.

HHAA members have been involved with the Helena National Forest and the process of landscape management for more than 20 years. We have been actively engaged in the current Tenmile-South Helena Project, submitting comment, attending meetings, and participating in the City of Helena's Collaborative group -- as guests even though we had asked to be included as members.

We are not legally challenging the entire 60,000 acre Tenmile-South Helena project. We are *only* objecting to **mechanized equipment** use in two Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) but we are not challenging the many thousands of acres of private land buffer treatments or extensive burning *within* those IRAs. What this means is that the other 14,000+ acres of logging and burning in the project is not part of our legal complaint.

So, before deciding to join with the Helena National Forest in opposing the citizens of Helena struggle to maintain these treasured areas, please consider the following.

Mark Finney, a research forester with the U.S. Forest Service Fire Lab in Missoula, at a fire conference here in Helena stated (quote from *Independent Record* June 17, 2015),

“There’s a confusion that if you do timber management you’re doing fuel management -- you’re not,” Finney said. **“We’re not going to cut our way out of the problem, ...”** Finney found that fire **“ripped through logged areas,”** and **only units where prescribed fire was introduced showed effectiveness in stopping or mitigating wildfire spread.**

PhD, Research Physical Scientist, from the US Forest Service, Jack Cohen, recently retired, notes

Research shows that the characteristics of a home and its immediate surroundings within 100 feet principally determine home ignitions. This area, defines fires as a home ignition problem and not a problem of controlling wildfires. Communities can readily reduce home ignitability within the Home Ignition Zone to prevent WU [wildland-urban] fire tragedies instead of increasing wildfire suppression that fails during extreme wildfire conditions.

According to Tania Schoennagel, a forest landscape ecologist and fire researcher at the University of Colorado, a warming climate in the western United States means that fires are here to stay and fire managers would be better served using taxpayer dollars if they focused their efforts on fuel treatments around homes and infrastructure.

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We have an entirely new Commission and Mayor so you might not be aware of the Lewis and Clark County Commissions Resolution 2008-57 passed June 5, 2008 entitled **“Resolution to Protect and Promote the Conservation of Wildlife Habitat and Corridors on the Continental Divide”** (attached). This Resolution stresses the importance of wildlife habitat and wildlands in Lewis & Clark County, much of which occurs within the Tenmile-South Helena project, particularly the Jericho Mountain IRA. And you may know that the U.S. Congress readily passed a Wilderness Bill in 1988 that included the Lazyman IRA. But because the bill was so popular, President Regan put it in his pocket, not allowing it to see the light of day, and letting it die without a presidential signature.

These small but crucial roadless, wild areas are the lands that Helena Hunters & Anglers Association as well as the Montana Wildlife Federation are fighting to protect for critical wildlife security habitat, as well as non-mechanized recreational opportunities.

Given this long history, by many people, including government entities, to protect this area – we formally request that the Helena City Commission join with Helena Hunters and MWF to retain our rare and precious Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Sincerely,  
Gayle Joslin  
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