

LAZYMEN INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA

**SUBUNIT B – East Portion
Travis Creek (western tributaries)
May 2026**



LIST OF FIGURES – SUBUNIT B

Figure B01. Map of Subunit B, Lazyman IRA 3

Figure B02. “Feature Road” looking southeast at county road 3

Figure B03. “Feature Road” looking north-west up newly bulldozed road 3

Figure B04-B05. Feature Road cutting into mountain side and through park grassland 4

Figure B06. All field surveys associated with TSH access “roads” in 4000 South Series 5

Figure B07. Vertical view of field surveys of aspirational routes 4000-NS01 (Blue), 4000-001 (Yellow), 4000-NS04 (Purple), and illegally constructed “Feature Road” (White) 5

Figure B08. Horizontal landscape view of some surveys in Subunit B 6

Figure B09. Ponderosa pine growing in old roadbed - 4000-NS01 (Blue) 7

Figure B10. No road bed - 4000-001. Smell of elk strong, W aspect 7

Figure B11. Elk rub on lodgepole, upper left. Proposed unit boundary-stripes 4000-001 8

Figure B12. No road bed, SSE aspect, trees are marked - 4000-001 8

Figure B13. Looking west at Black Mountain - 4000-NS04. Elk pellet groups everywhere..... 9

Figure B14. Southern aspirational spur routes - vague old wagon route 4000-001 8

Figure B15. Old trail extends steeply down to bottom of Colorado Gulch, 4000-NS03 (teal) 10

Figure B16. Very vague old road, huge Doug-fir center- left - 4000-NS06 (tan) NS06 10

Figure B17. Panorama southwest to northwest at the beginning of NS08 - 4000-NS08 (red) 10

Figure B18. Natural recovery is rehabilitating this old road - 4000-NS08 (red) 10

Figure B19. Old mine claim metal monument “M173 #7” - 4000-NS09 (brown) 11

Figure B20. Indistinct, overgrown road bed, end of NS10, Wpt 68 - 4000-NS10 (tan) 11

Figure B21. Heavy grass cover, no road bed, barely a trail, SE aspect - 4000-NS11 (green) 12

Figure B22. 4000-NS12 (Light yellow in Fig. B6) would have bisected the Chessman Ditch 12

Figure B23. Panorama SW to NW - Chessman Ditch in Center. Red Mountain in background 13

Figure B24. Map of non-existent route T587-1 13

Figure B25. Supposed Road T587-1 location 13

Figures B26-B28. Photos in area of proposed mountain bike trail, Chessman Ditch-Travis Cr ... 14

Figures B29 and B30. Travis Cr-Blackhall Meadows access–illegal mountain bike trail 15

Figure B31. Trap in which domestic dog was caught adjacent to Lazyman IRA 15

Figure B32. Location of trap at edge of meadow. Carnivores often travel habitat edges 15

Figure B33. Flying squirrels were regular inhabitants - snagged on barbed-wire fences 16

Figure B34. Grizzly bear observed one mile south of the Lazyman IRA, July 2017 17

Subunit B: Eastern Area - Travis Creek (western tributaries of Travis Cr)

Subunit B of the Lazyman Inventoried Roadless Area involved surveys of nine aspirational access routes for the Tenmile-South Helena (TSH) Vegetation Manipulation Project, one proposed bike route, one illegal road, and two incident reports. These [Field Reports](#) included 138 photos documenting the current condition of the area. Within Subunit B, photos that were taken during field surveys occurred from 2020 to 2023 in this eastern portion of the Lazyman IRA.

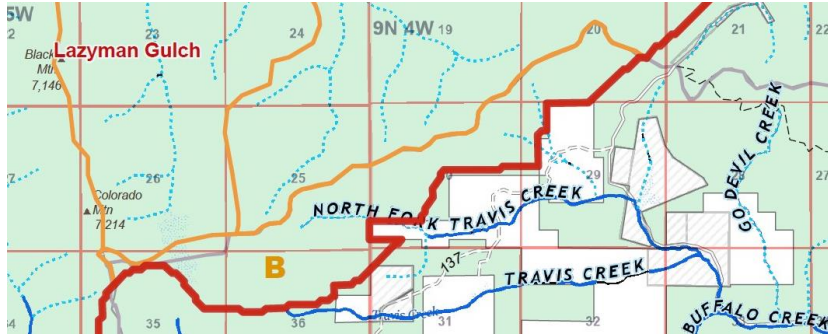


Figure B01. Map of Subunit B, Lazyman IRA.

The following eight field reports provide all photos, waypoints, maps, and narratives for Subunit B: Report A; Report C; Report D; Report E; Feature Road

(Notice of Supplemental...); Blackhall T5781; Chessman ditch-bike; Blackhall Bike Damage; and domestic dog trap incident (2016). The following summarizes those reports.

February 21, 2020 - The “Feature Road” Incident involved construction of a road from the county road to the IRA boundary. The “Feature Road” exists just outside the IRA boundary, but involved construction of an illegal road (Figures B02 – B05) to the IRA boundary. The Forest Service insisted the road was not a road, but was a “Feature,” thus HHAA dubbed it the “Feature Road.” The Feature Road was intended to access harvest units within the IRA, and was used to access units adjacent to the IRA. Subsequent to legal objection by HHAA, the road was “trashed” but damage to vegetation, soil, wildlife habitat/security, and the spread of noxious weeds remains.



Figure B02. “Feature Road” looking southeast at county road.

Figure B03. “Feature Road” looking north-west up newly bulldozed road.



Figure B04-B05. “Feature Road” cutting into mountain side and through park grassland - looking to the southeast and south, respectively.

The United States District Court directed HHAA to supplement the administrative record on 18 March, 2020, since questions of fact precluded summary judgement with regard to whether the U.S. Forest Service violated the Roadless Rule, among other laws when it when it authorized the use of mechanized logging within the Lazyman Gulch Inventoried Roadless Area ("IRA") pursuant to the Tenmile South-Helena (TSH) Vegetation Project Record of Decision. Record discrepancies involved whether roads actually existed in the IRA. HHAA initiated court-directed field surveys on April 28, 2020, to demonstrate the non-existence of usable roads, although initial aerial and field surveys began in April and June 2019, respectively.

Six field surveys of 24 locations where non-existent roads were supposed to have occurred, provide a baseline condition report for the Lazyman IRA. The following photos provide examples of conditions occurring within the eastern portion of the IRA – all within Subunit B (Travis Creek) of the IRA.

Google Earth provides a perspective of how the Feature Road (white) was constructed from the county road up to 4000-NS01 (blue) which is an old mining route within the IRA, but which is overgrown and shows no bare ground. From NS01, 4000-001 (yellow) diminishes into a trail and often cannot be seen due to natural reclamation through regrowth and downfall. 4000-NS04 (purple) is a trail departing from 001, going up the ridge to the south on a plateau but become indistinct, however the area is heavily used by deer and elk as evidenced by rubs, pellet groups, and bedding sites.

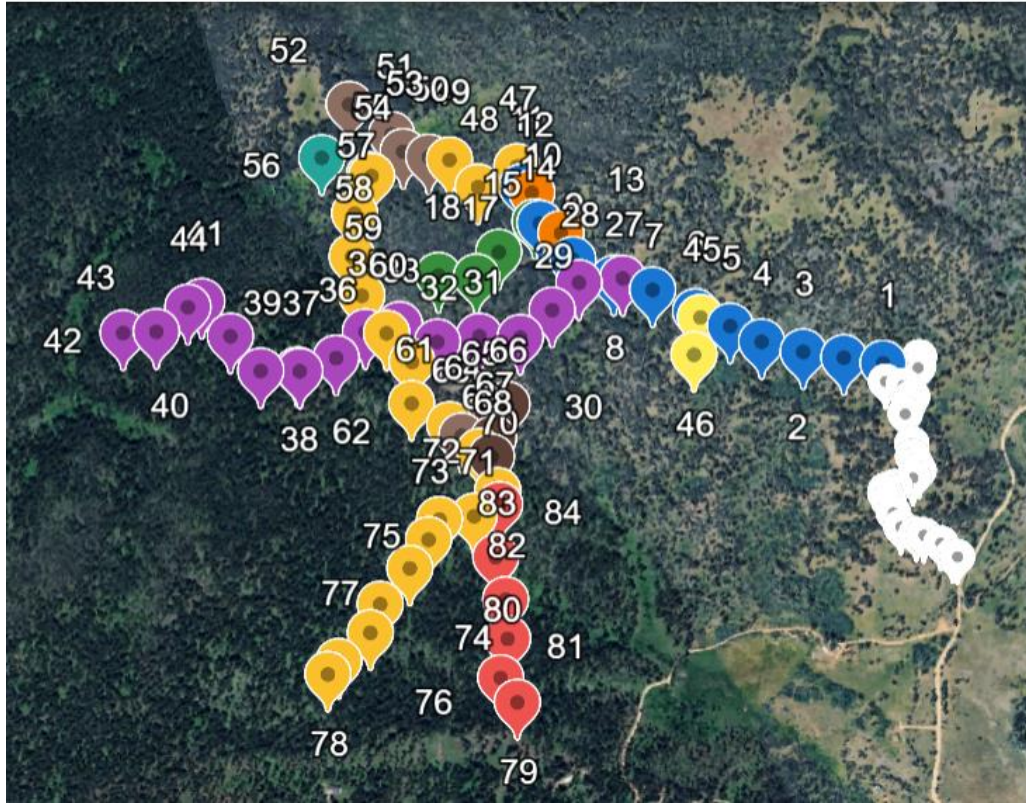


Figure B06. All field surveys associated with TSH access “roads” in 4000 South Series.

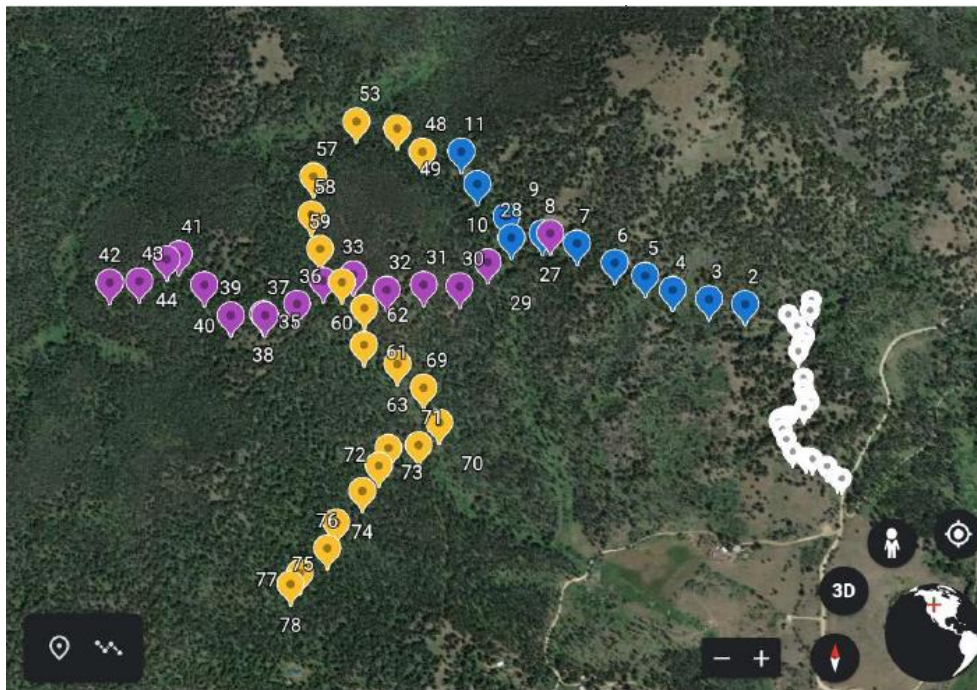


Figure B07. Vertical perspective of ground field surveys of aspirational routes 4000-NS01 (Blue), 4000-001 (Yellow), 4000-NS04 (Purple), and the illegally constructed “Feature Road” (white).



Figure B08 . Horizontal landscape view of some surveys in Subunit B.

Ridgelines and topography are shown in *Figure B6* displaying the

- “Feature Road” (White) – which is the only engineered and actually constructed (illegally) road in the photo,
- 4000-NS01 Blue
- NS03 Teal
- NS04 Purple
- NS05 Orange
- NS06 Tan
- 4000-001 Dark Yellow
- NS08 Red
- NS09 Brown
- NS10 Tan
- NS11 Green
- NS12 Light Yellow

April 28 and 30, 2020 Field survey of 4000-NS01 “route” – an old mining route (Fig. B6. blue waypoints) and 4000-NS04 (Fig. B6. purple waypoints) was conducted by Gayle Joslin. Abundant elk sign, but little evidence of a road was present.



Figure B09 . Ponderosa pine growing in old roadbed - 4000-NS01 (Blue). Pink X's with pink flagging mark the spot where the "Feature" road was allowed by Forest Service contract to extend to the IRA boundary (later "trashed").



Figure B10. No road bed - 4000-001. Smell of elk strong, W aspect



Figure B11. Elk rub on lodgepole – upper left. Orange vertical stripes on tree in center right indicates proposed harvest unit boundary - 4000-001.



Figure B12. No road bed, SSE aspect, trees are marked - 4000-001.



Figure B13. Looking west at Black Mountain just above the trees - 4000-NS04. Trail only from here. Elk pellet groups everywhere.

May 4, 2020 Google Earth map showing the aspirational spur routes emanating from 4000-001 (yellow – which itself is not distinct on the ground), all surveyed by Gayle Joslin.

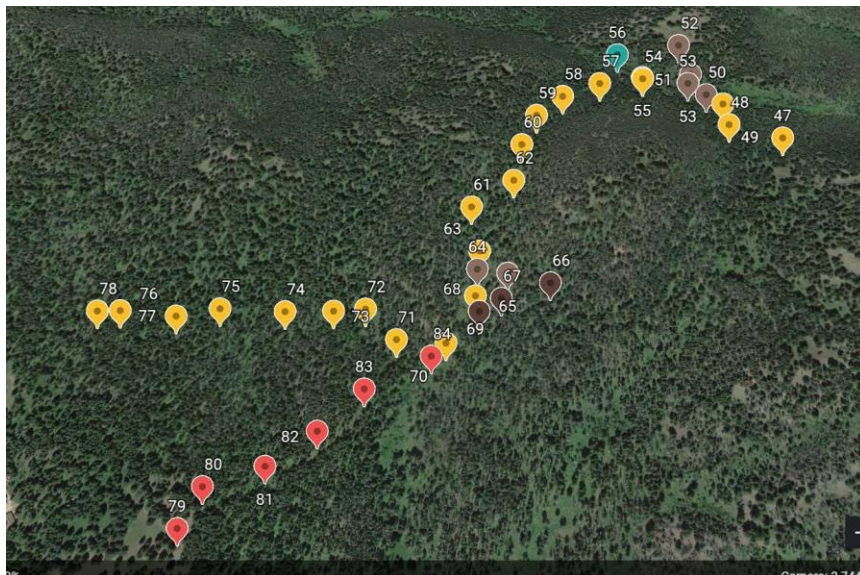


Figure B14. Southern aspirational spur routes associated with vague old wagon route 4000-001.

4000-001, shown in yellow. 4000-NS03 (teal). 4000-NS06 (tan, waypoints 50-56). 4000-NS08 (red). 4000-NS09 (brown) 4000-NS10 (tan, waypoints 64-65). NS = non-system.



Figure B15. Old trail extends steeply down to the bottom of Colorado Gulch, much downfall. Aspen and Black Mountain in background - 4000-NS03 (teal) End of NS03

Figure B16. Very vague old road, huge Doug-fir center- left - 4000-NS06 (tan) NS06.



Figure B17. Panorama from southwest to northwest of landscape at the beginning of NS08 - 4000-NS08 (red). Large ponderosa pine grassland savanna hillside occurs in what was to be Vegetation management unit 173bd.



Figure B18. Natural recovery is rehabilitating this old road - 4000-NS08 (red).

There is no bare ground and abundant vegetation is growing in the bed of this old road, as well as being blocked by significant downfall between waypoints 82 and 83.



Figure B19. Old mine claim metal monument “M173 #7” - 4000-NS09 (brown). Elk rubs have killed the red saplings in the upper left of photo.



Figure B20. Indistinct, overgrown road bed, end of NS10, Wpt 68 - 4000-NS10 (Tan)



Figure B21. Heavy grass cover, no road bed, barely a trail, SE aspect - 4000-NS11 (Green)

May 16, 2020 The most easterly spur (4000-NS12) coming off 4000-NS04 is very short but would have intersected the Chessman Ditch. This was the last route to be surveyed in the 4000 Series.

Figure B22 . 4000-NS12 (Light Yellow in Fig. B6) would have bisected the Chessman Ditch.

An old route, perhaps to access the Chessman Ditch, is completely and naturally reclaimed. A very steep slope extends south down from 4000-NS01 to the ditch.





Figure B23 . Panorama SW to NW in Travis Creek with Chessman Ditch in Center. Red Mountain in background.

May 8, 2020 Survey T587-1 Steve Platt and Bill Orsello tried to survey T587-1 in the Travis-Beaver-Blackhall Meadow area but had difficulty finding the route. Figure B (map) depicts Route T578-1 on the USFS TSH ROD – Veg Treatment MAP in the Avenza App. Note Blackhall Meadows location and the Roadless Area boundary that does not follow the boundary of Road 578 or any particular feature on the landscape. Cutting units are in blue.



Figure B24. Map of non-existent route T587-1.



Figure B25. Supposed Road T587-1 location.

HHA member, Bill Orsello is standing in heavy lodgepole blowdown timber where road T 578-1 is supposed to be located (Fig B25). Note there is no discernable road or trail. Waypoint: 46.49425, - 112.19131.

The field report notes:

“At first there appeared to be a faint trail through the swampy forest but then it

became apparent that we were following a game trail marked by moose and elk sign. The game trail faded away within a few hundred feet of road 578 and we were left negotiating our way through heavy lodgepole blowdown. My senior bird dog found several ruffed grouse and one blue grouse on the field trip. Glacier lilies were just coming up and moose and elk sign was abundant. There is no discernable road to call T578-1 ... There are no features to explain why the roadless boundary is drawn where it is”

June 4, 2023 Chessman Ditch-Travis Cr HHAA members Dennis Milburn, Doug Powell, Paul Ferry and Gayle Joslin hiked from south to north along a purported bike route that was said to exist but was actually aspirational.



Figures B26, B27, B28. Photos taken in areas of proposed mountain bike trail, Chessman Ditch-Travis Creek.

The non-motorized trail system map depicts the route extending north from Grizzly Gulch (it does not exist there either) over the crest of the Grizzly-Travis divide going in a southwesterly direction inside the IRA from the County Road between Subunit A and Subunit B (SW ¼ Sec. 21 to the NW ¼ of Sec. 31) where it would intersect with the access route to Blackhall Meadows. The trail would have followed the Chessman Ditch in several areas. No trail is present.

July 19, 2023 Incident: Blackhall-Mountain Bike Trail. Doug Powell, Gary Ingman, Dennis Milborn, and Paul Ferry hiked into Upper Colorado Gulch via access at the end of the Travis Creek road leading to Blackhall Meadows, to evaluate the hydrologic condition of the meadows and upper drainages of Colorado Gulch. On the way, they encountered recent construction



of a mountain bike trail about 3/8 mile south of the parking lot (46.491190 - 112.172742). Construction involved banked turns requiring fill material taken from a borrow site that left a deep hole that was then loosely covered with logs to cover the pit. Doug Powell reported the construction to the Helena Ranger District.

Figures B29 and B30. Travis Cr -Blackhall Meadows access – illegal mountain bike trail construction.

October 30, 2016 Trap Incident - Domestic dog A resident of Travis Creek, Vicki Kent, was hiking with her dog and a friend adjacent to the IRA boundary when her dog was captured in a trap. After considerable struggle, the two women were finally able to free the dog.

While trapping is legal, illegal take and by-catch of wildlife are not well understood. The Travis Creek area (Subunit B) is of particular importance because carnivores seem to be moving through this portion of the IRA, perhaps drawn by moist habitats associated with Park Lake and Chessman Reservoir (see Wildlife section).



Figure B31. Trap in which domestic dog was caught adjacent to Lazyman IRA.

Figure B32. Location of trap placement at the edge of a meadow. Carnivores often travel along these habitat edges.

Wildlife associated with Subunit is diverse ranging from Northern long-toed salamanders, flying squirrels, great gray and flammulated owls, to occasional sightings of grizzly bears and wolverine. Moose, mule and white-tailed deer use is yearlong, with intensive spring, summer, and fall security use by elk. While bull elk do winter within the IRA, most wintering elk herds occurs on adjacent forest service lands surrounding the IRA. However, cow elk can be found yearlong as well.



Figure B33. Flying squirrels are known to have been regular inhabitants of the area proven by the unfortunate evidence of being snagged on barbed-wire fences.

Reports of grizzly bears within the area occur regularly, with one photographic observation confirmed in 2017 by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks about one mile southeast of the IRA (Subunits B and C) in the Chessman Reservoir area (Fig. B34.).

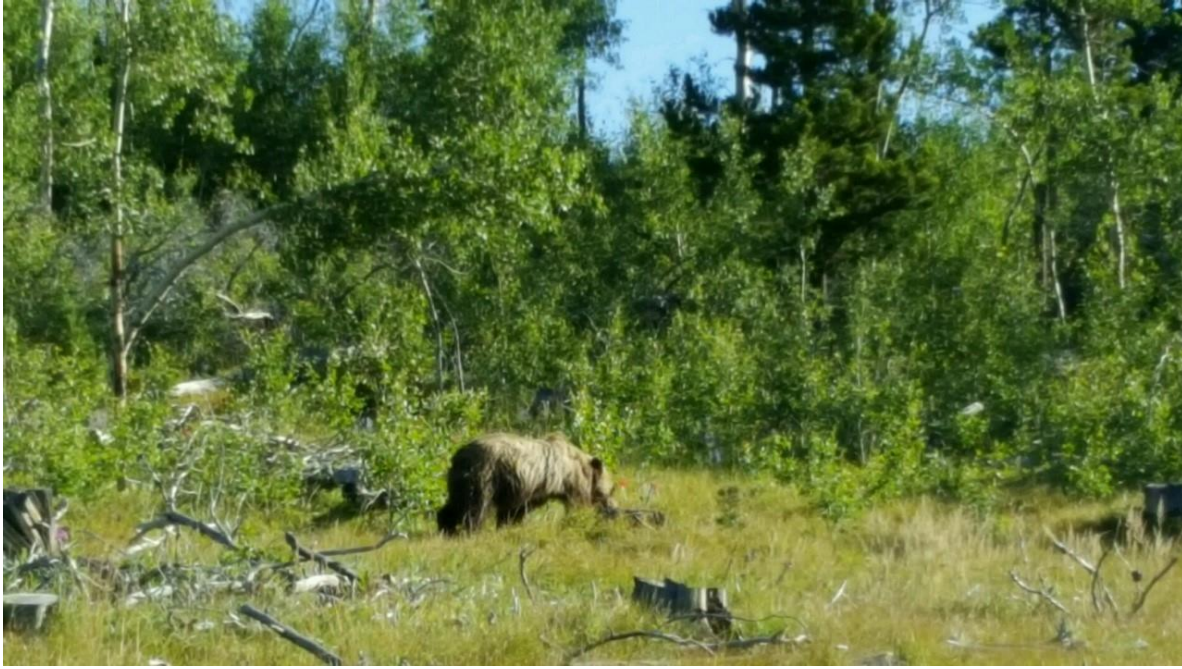


Figure B34. Grizzly bear observed one mile south of the Lazyman IRA, July 2017.

Retired wildlife biologist and HHAA member Gayle Joslin briefly encountered a bear in the steep headwaters of Beaver Creek above and to the south of Chessman Reservoir, that she believed was a grizzly. Surprised by the hiker, the light colored bear exploded from its steep, riparian bedding site, and disappeared into heavy cover. That area has since been logged.

Also, on the boundary of Subunit B, on the divide between Grizzly Gulch and Travis Creek, a dead wolverine was found by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologist, Gayle Joslin. And east of there, a live wolverine was reported to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Park by a landowner about one mile to the northeast in the Oro Fino Gulch area. Tracks and sign of wolves, wolverine, and lynx have been documented in the IRA by HHAA member, and wildlife biologist, Doug Powell.