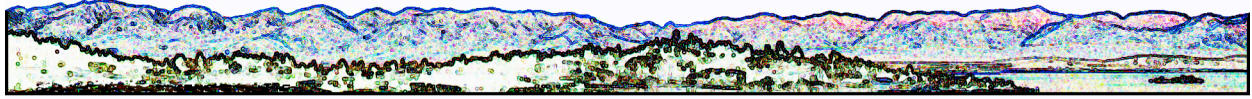


Swan View Coalition

Nature and Human Nature on the Same Path



3165 Foothill Road, Kalispell, MT 59901

swanview.org & swanrange.org

ph/fax 406-755-1379

August 15, 2016

Flathead National Forest
Attention: Forest Plan Revision
650 Wolfpack Way
Kalispell, MT 59901

Re: Krause Basin and Alternative C

Submitted via <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=46286>

Dear Folks;

Please find on the next page a photo of ATV damage to a wet area adjacent to the Peters Ridge Road, which was apparently caused by a wider side-by-side ATV this past weekend or perhaps Friday. This wet area supports unique species of orchids and is now trashed.

We appreciate that Draft Proposed Forest Plan Alternative C would finally prohibit ATV use of the old, user-created trail network in Krause Basin and restrict ATVs to the main Peters Ridge Road and allow this on-road use only during the times it is open to motor vehicles. Alternative C would honor the intent of the 1988 Noisy Face Recreation Plan, which intended for Krause Basin to NOT be known as an ATV destination, in part by insisting that the ATV trails "will not be marked on the ground."

Closing Krause Basin to ATVs will also help lower motorized route densities as required by your current Forest Plan to better protect wildlife - a promise not fulfilled since 1995! As the petitions we submitted to you in May 2015 show, the majority landowners in this area are among the 98 petitioners wanting Krause Basin closed to ATVs and NOT known as an ATV destination or "Focused Recreation Area."

So please do implement Alternative C relative to Krause Basin by closing it to ATVs and NOT designating it a focused recreation area!

Sincerely,

Keith J. Hammer
Chair

