Lower Blackfoot Travel and Transportation Planning Project

Early Public Engagement on Project Alternative Development

The Missoula Field Office interdisciplinary team has developed a possible range of travel and transportation opportunities for the public to review and provide comments.

This early engagement is NOT a proposed action; the BLM will incorporate your public feedback from these alternatives and on-going environmental analysis to determine a refined proposed action which will be shared in fall 2024.

Missoula Field Office, Bureau of Land Management Prepared for Project Public Meetings April 17 & 18, 2024



Background Information

The Lower Blackfoot Watershed Travel Management Plan (TMP) would cover approximately 43,875 acres of BLM administrated land, as well as approximately 17,302 acres of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) owned lands; the inclusion of TNC owned lands acknowledges the on-going planning efforts related to acquisitions in the project area. The Lower Blackfoot project boundary includes 921 miles of road, with approximately 706 miles of road on BLM and TNC administered lands. This TMP will determine public access (travel management) and transportation system opportunities that allow for restoration and sustainable management of these newly acquired lands. This project will be completed in alignment with the 2021 Missoula Resource Management Plan (RMP) goals and objectives.

Our Interdisciplinary team has broken the Lower Blackfoot project area into 7 distinct geographic areas based on feedback from the Lower Blackfoot Envisioning process. BLM conducted over 200 interviews with the public in winter 2023 to understand public values and uses of this landscape. The BLM took this information and developed theme statements based on elements of each area that the public told us were important for management considerations. The BLM's interdisciplinary team then developed a range of alternatives to manage the road networks in these areas; at this stage, we are asking for public feedback on the range of options that will then go through additional environmental analysis to determine compliance with federal policies.

At this time we do not have a proposed action or an alternative that we are leaning towards, rather, we will pull elements of each alternative forward into a proposed action that will be shared this fall incorporating your public comments and on-going environmental analysis.

Project Purpose and Need

- Recreation: On these newly acquired lands, a comprehensive travel system has not been designated except on Forest Service through-routes. The TMP will determine opportunities for sustainable recreation in alignment with the Blackfoot Special Recreation Management Area and River Recreation Corridor including motorized, non-motorized, and over-snow activities that consider potential tradeoffs with other resources, minimize conflicts between user groups, and provide a range of recreation experiences.
- Resilient Landscape Restoration: The existing route network was previously developed for management of industrial timberlands; this management has led to vegetation and riparian conditions outside the range of variability on this landscape. The ecosystem is in need of continued active forest restoration to achieve forest resiliency, watershed function, wildlife and aquatic habitat quality, and sustainable supply of forest products. There is a need to define a transportation network to support this active restoration.
- Managing for Reserved Tribal Treaty Rights: The Hellgate Treaty of 1855 established Reserve Treaty Rights on federally owned lands allowing for rights to "fish at all usual and accustomed places [...] erect temporary buildings for curing; together with the privilege of hunting, gathering roots and berries..." As these lands once again become federally managed, these treaty rights are restored. This project will assess travel and transportation systems to provide opportunities to reconnect tribal members and this landscape around their traditional values including opportunities for quiet camping, hunting, and gathering wild foods.

BLM's Travel and Transportation Planning Process

| | Process Step and Estimated Timeline | | | | | | |
|------------|---|------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. | The BLM establishes OHV Area Designations (open, limited, or closed) in a | January 2021 | | | | | |
| | Resource Management Plan (RMP). This occurred with the 2021 Missoula | | | | | | |
| | RMP. | | | | | | |
| 2. | With area designations in place, the BLM initiates a travel and transportation | Completed | | | | | |
| | management process for designating travel on individual routes within a Travel | summer 2023 | | | | | |
| | Management Area (TMA). Route Inventory is conducted within the TMA. The | | | | | | |
| | inventory may include on-the-ground GPS-collected route line data, line data | | | | | | |
| | digitized from aerial photography, as well as other route-related point data, such | | | | | | |
| | as washouts, dead ends, and gates. | | | | | | |
| 3. | The BLM begins development of a Range of Reasonable Alternatives for travel | Initiated spring | | | | | |
| _ | route designations. | 2024 | | | | | |
| 4. | A BLM interdisciplinary team (IDT) of resource specialists conducts several | Spring 2024 | | | | | |
| | sessions of Route Evaluation , assessing each individual route and documenting | (We are here) | | | | | |
| | potentially affected resources and/or resource uses associated with each route. | | | | | | |
| | The IDT proposes individual route designations for each alternative while | | | | | | |
| | addressing how each route will minimize impacts on resources per CFR 8342.1. IDTs also document rationales for each alternative designation proposal. | | | | | | |
| 5. | The BLM prepares a Draft Travel Management Plan and Environmental | Summer – Fall | | | | | |
| <i>J</i> . | Assessment (TMP/EA) which includes descriptions of alternative travel | 2024 | | | | | |
| | management networks and potential environmental consequences of | 2024 | | | | | |
| | implementing each network. BLM will host public meetings again in fall 2024. | | | | | | |
| 6. | The BLM may issue the Draft TMP/EA to the public, which typically includes a | Spring 2025 | | | | | |
| | 30-day Comment Period for the public to provide the BLM with substantive | | | | | | |
| | feedback. | | | | | | |
| 7. | The BLM reviews comments and makes changes to the Draft TMP/EA if | Spring 2025 | | | | | |
| | applicable based on substantive comments. | 1 0 | | | | | |
| 8. | The BLM develops a Final TMP and EA . If the BLM Decision Official has | Early Summer | | | | | |
| | determined that there would be no significant impacts from implementing the | 2025 | | | | | |
| | TMP, a signed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is issued. | | | | | | |
| 9. | The BLM issues a signed and dated Decision Record (DR) identifying the | Early Summer | | | | | |
| | selected alternative travel network. Issuance of the DR marks the beginning of a | 2025 | | | | | |
| | 30-day Appeal Period during which the public can appeal the TMP and EA. | | | | | | |
| 10. | Following the appeal period and any required appeal resolution, | Summer 2025 | | | | | |
| | implementation (signing, monitoring, reclamation, etc.) begins in accordance | | | | | | |
| | with the TMP. | | | | | | |
| | | ı | | | | | |

How to Use this Map Book

Each geographic area is organized as a "chapter" – you will see a description and summary of the range of alternatives for that geographic area, followed by a series of 4 maps showing the existing condition (Alt A), a conservation based alternative (Alt B), a compromising alternative (Alt C), and a motorized access option (Alt D). At this time, BLM does not have a proposed action or an alternative that we are leaning towards, rather, we will pull elements of each alternative forward into a proposed action that will be shared this fall.

In order to show high levels of detail, we needed to "zoom in" closely for these maps – please use the index map located in the bottom right corner of each map to find your location and look at the corresponding range of alternatives within that map area.

<u>Non-Motorized Uses:</u> In all lands in the project area, minus some locations in the Lower Twin Creek area that are land-locked by private property, it is assumed that all non-motorized public access, such as walking, horseback riding, biking (no e-bikes), skiing, and snowshoeing are welcome uses. E-bike designations were determined on specific routes which will be noted as a standalone management description.

Example Travel Management Table with Descriptions of Allowed Uses

| Travel Management Categories | Descriptions of Use by Travel Management Category |
|---|--|
| Open | Motorized uses are allowed year-round with no special mode of travel designations. |
| Summer and Winter Seasonal Motorized Use | Motorized uses are allowed year-round, but a mode of travel designation exists, for example, it may be open in the summer to vehicles and then limited to snowmobiles or over snow vehicles only. |
| Summer Seasonal Motorized Use Only | Motorized uses are only allowed during summer seasons and closed in the winter. |
| Winter Seasonal Motorized Use Only | Motorized uses are only allowed in the winter months, generally from December 1 – April 30 using a snowmobile or over snow vehicle. |
| Winter Nonmotorized Uses Only | These "snow trails" are designed for non-motorized winter uses, like groomed fat bike and Nordic ski trails. |
| E-bike Allowed | E-bikes (class 1 thru 3) would be authorized on specific routes where other motorized uses are not allowed. |
| Administrative Motorized Access Only | Limited to administrative motorized uses only, the public may use non-motorized means to access these roads. |
| Close to all Motorized (Roads Stored or Decommissioned) | Roads that would be closed to all motorized uses. |
| New Construction Reroutes | New construction routes that do not currently exist; these are provided as short segments that would allow BLM to re-route roads that have higher impacts to resources like aquatic habitat. |
| Undesignated | This category accounts for roads within the project boundary that BLM does not have authorization over; for example – there are 44 miles of Forest Service (FS) roads within the project area that BLM will not change travel authorizations on. In Alternative A – BLM has captured the existing condition of FS route status, but routes remain "undesignated" in Alternatives B, C, and D these routes will reflect areas where BLM cannot change authorizations. this category. For example, there may be a significant drop in miles of "Open" routes from Alt A to the remaining alternatives – this is because BLM would not designate FS roads and they are accounted for in this category. |

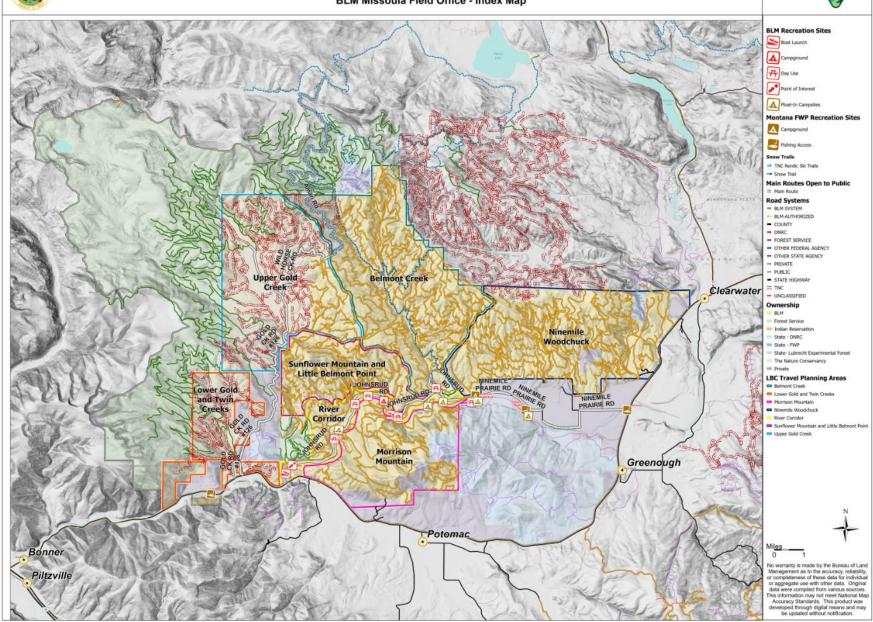
Lower Blackfoot Travel Management Project - Legend Descriptions

| Legend Symbol | Travel Management | Descriptions of Use by Travel Management Category |
|------------------|---|--|
| _ | Open | Motorized uses are allowed year-round with no special mode of travel designations. |
| - | Summer and Winter Seasonal Motorized Use | Motorized uses are allowed year-round, but a mode of travel designation exists, for example, it may be open in the summer to vehicles and then limited to snowmobiles or over snow vehicles only. |
| _ | Summer Seasonal Motorized Use Only | Motorized uses are only allowed during summer seasons and closed in the winter. |
| | Winter Seasonal Motorized Use Only | Motorized uses are only allowed in the winter months, generally from December 1 – April 30 using a snowmobile or over snow vehicle. |
| | Winter Nonmotorized Uses Only | These "snow trails" are designed for non-motorized winter uses, like groomed fat bike and Nordic ski trails. |
| | E-bikes Allowed | E-bikes (class 1 thru 3) would be authorized on specific routes where other motorized uses are not allowed. |
| _ | Administrative Motorized Access Only | Limited to administrative motorized uses only, the public may use non-motorized means to access these roads. |
| • | Close to all Motorized (Roads Stored or Decommissioned) | Roads that would be closed to all motorized uses. |
| | New Construction Reroutes | New construction routes that do not currently exist; these are provided as short segments that would allow BLM to re-route roads that have higher impacts to resources like aquatic habitat. |
| (Forest Service) | Undesignated | This category accounts for roads within the project boundary that BLM does not have or would not create authorizations for. In Alternative A – BLM has captured the existing condition of route status except the 14 miles of previously undesignated trails. In Alternatives B, C, and D the BLM would acquire lands with 44 miles of Forest Service routes, which will remain "undesignated" where BLM cannot change authorizations. In Alt B, there are an additional 5 miles of undesignated routes (49 miles total), this reflects mileage of roads we would NOT construct and trail systems that are previously undesignated and would be added to the BLM's travel system in other alternatives. |



Lower Blackfoot Travel and Transportation Management Project BLM Missoula Field Office - Index Map





Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor

In the mid-nineties, the Bureau of Land Management owned only 40 acres along the Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor and worked with The Nature Conservancy to acquire these lands for long-term public access beginning in 1998. This area includes the Johnsrud Park Road and Ninemile Prairie Roads – which are currently year-round open access points for the Blackfoot River.

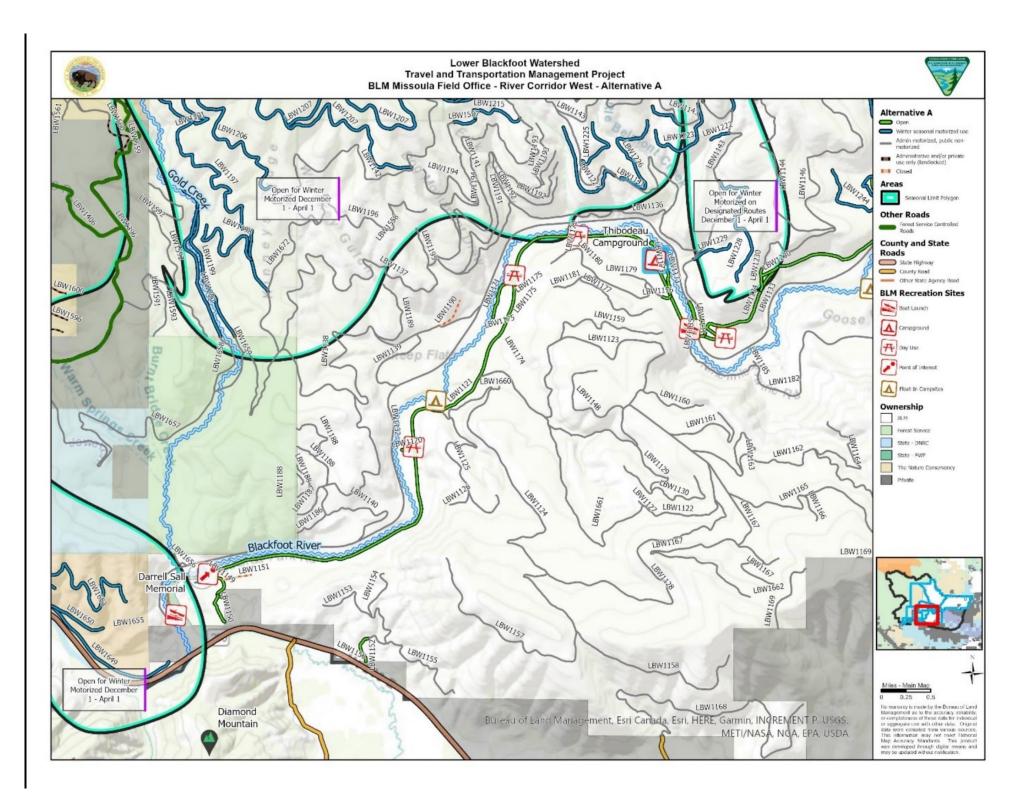
The BLM manages this area with a focus on river recreation, recreation access to the Road to the Buffalo trail, access to day use recreation sites, and forest health management within the Wildland Urban Interface; previous and on-going treatments include commercial and chainsaw tree thinning, prescribed fire treatments, weed spraying, native plant seeding, and improvements to recreation access sites. The BLM determined previous travel management decisions for this area in the 2000 when these first acquisitions were completed (reflected in Alternative A). Themes being considered include:

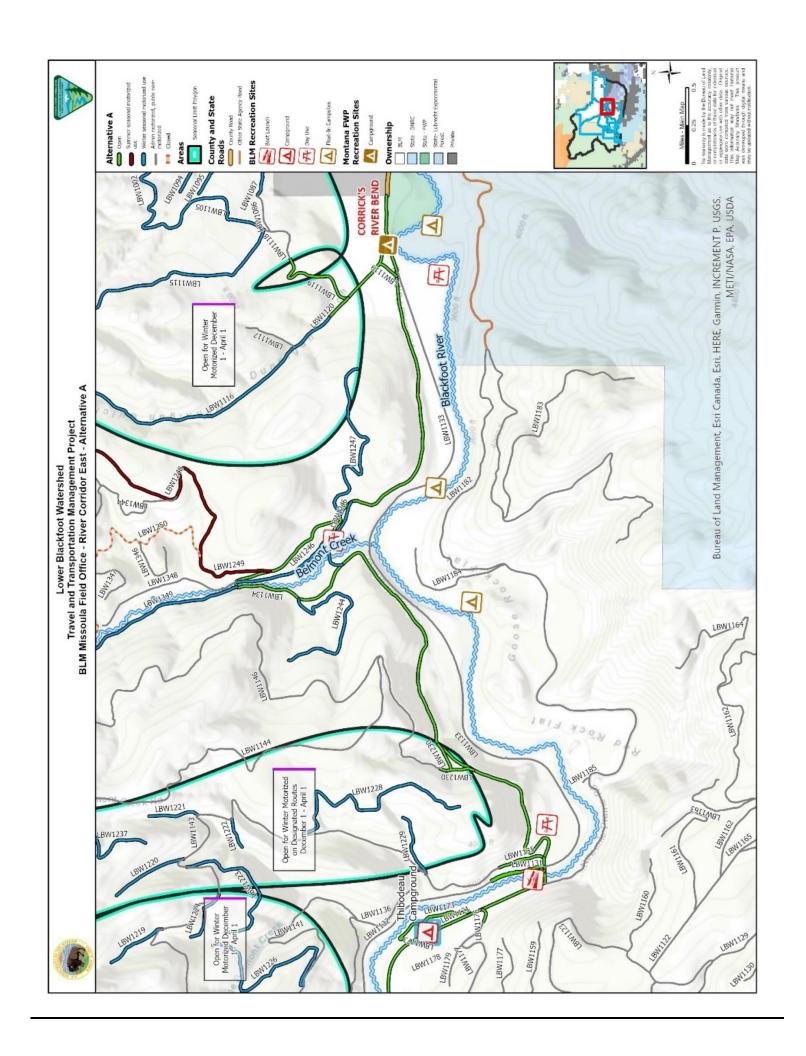
- Maintaining and improving recreation access points to reduce resource impacts such as route
 proliferation, invasive weed spread, and impacts to wildlife security including big game winter
 range.
- Highlighting access on the Road to the Buffalo (also called Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail)

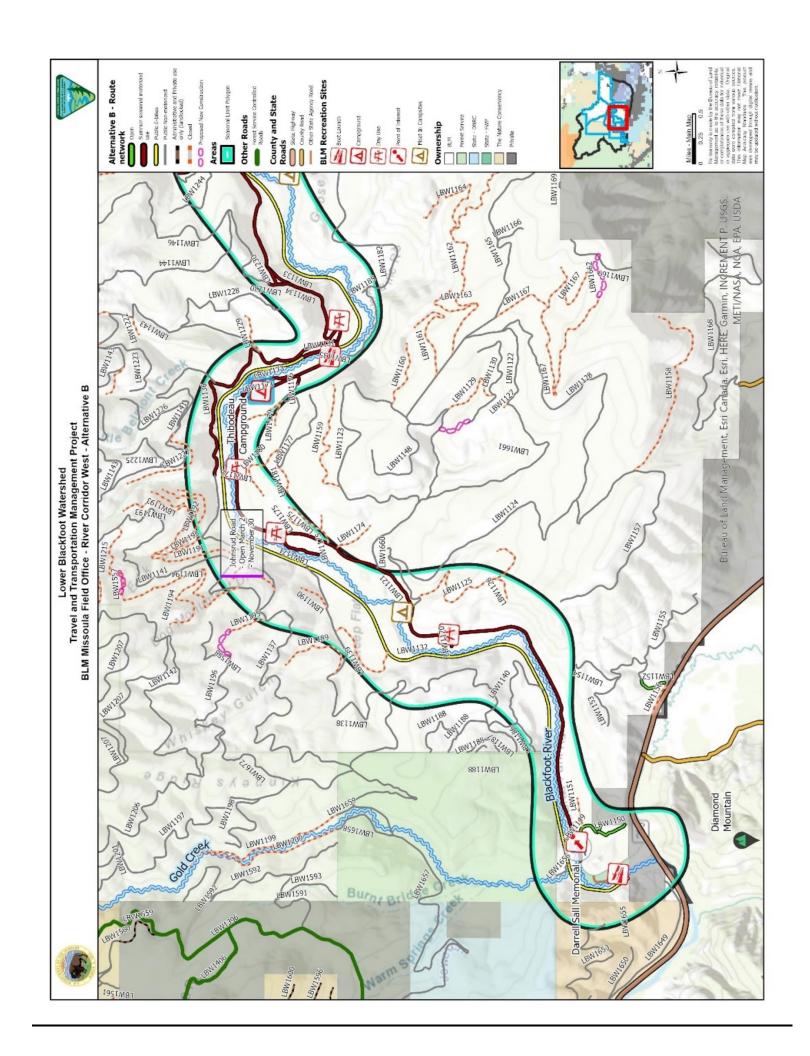
 — including considering a pedestrian bridge over Belmont Creek and considering areas for e-bike authorized trails on the railroad grade and other designated routes.
- In Alternatives B and C, the main Johnsrud Park Road would be seasonally limited to snowmobiles only from December 1 March 1 if adequate snow cover exists, otherwise the road would be open to wheeled vehicle traffic.

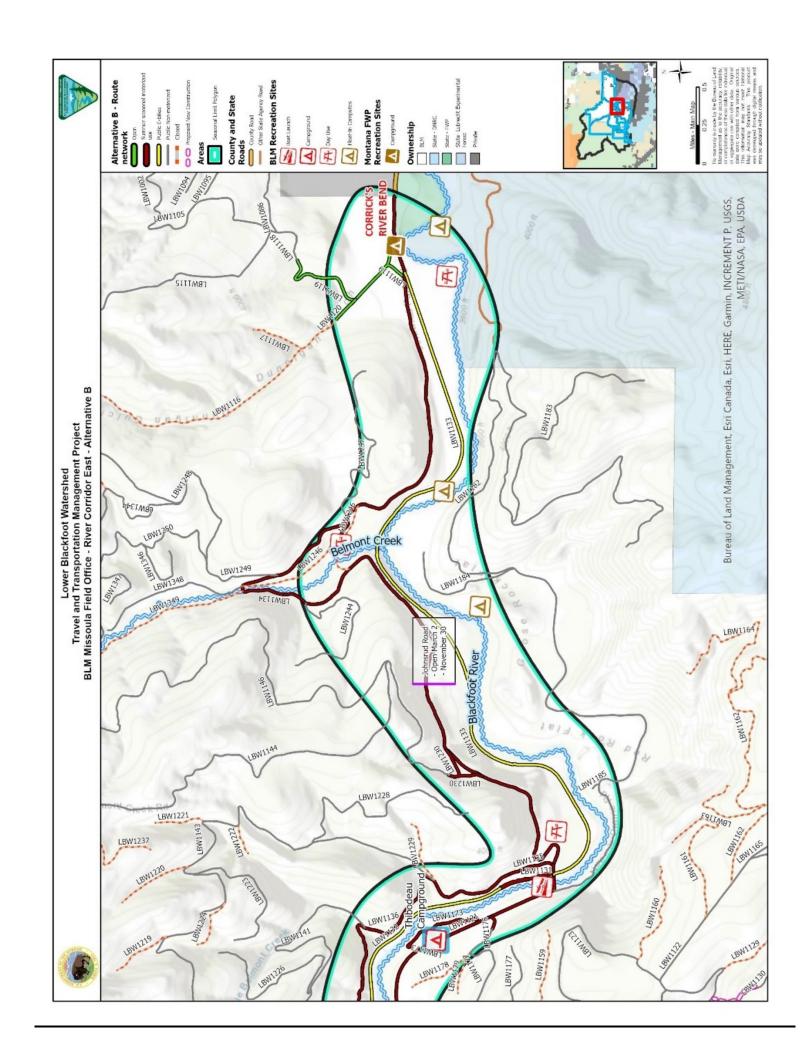
| Alternative | A | В | С | D |
|---|-------------------------|---|---|---|
| Description | The existing condition. | A habitat security and aquatic quality focused option. | A compromis e between alternatives B and D. | Creates the most motorized access. |
| | Miles of Road | | | |
| Open | 11 | 1 | 1 | 13 |
| Summer and Winter Seasonal Motorized Use | | | | |
| Summer Seasonal Motorized Use Only | 0 | 12 | 2 | |
| Winter Seasonal Motorized Use Only | 1 | | 11 | 1 |
| Winter Nonmotorized Uses Only | | | | |
| E-bike and non motorized | 0 | 9 | 18 | 18 |
| Administrative Motorized Access Only | 27 | 13 | 5 | 4 |
| Close to all Motorized (Roads Stored or Decommissioned) | 0 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| New Road Construction | - | - | = | - |

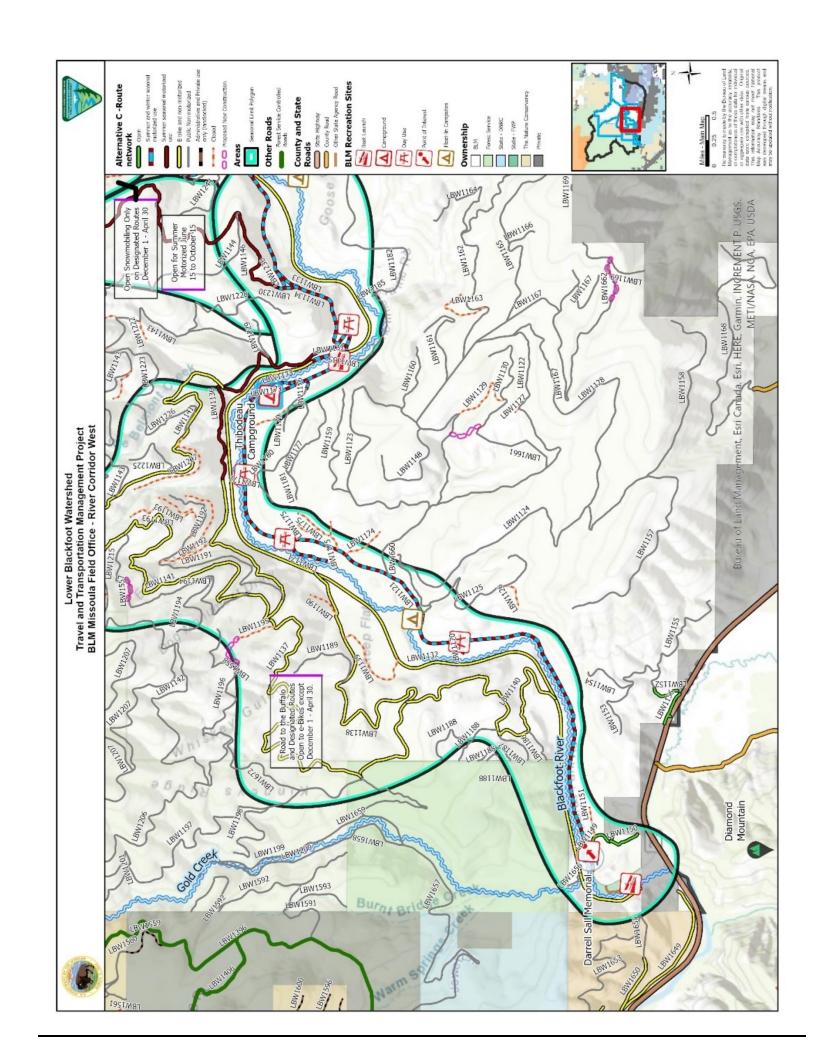
All areas are open to walk-in and non-motorized uses across all alternatives.

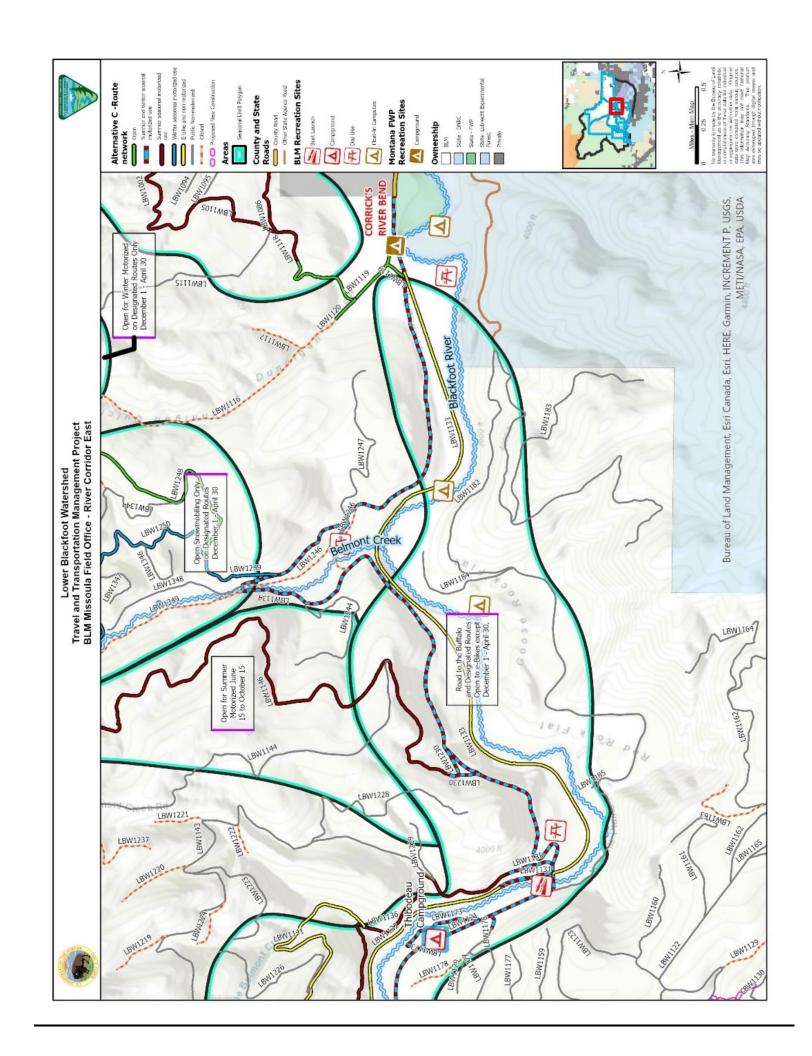


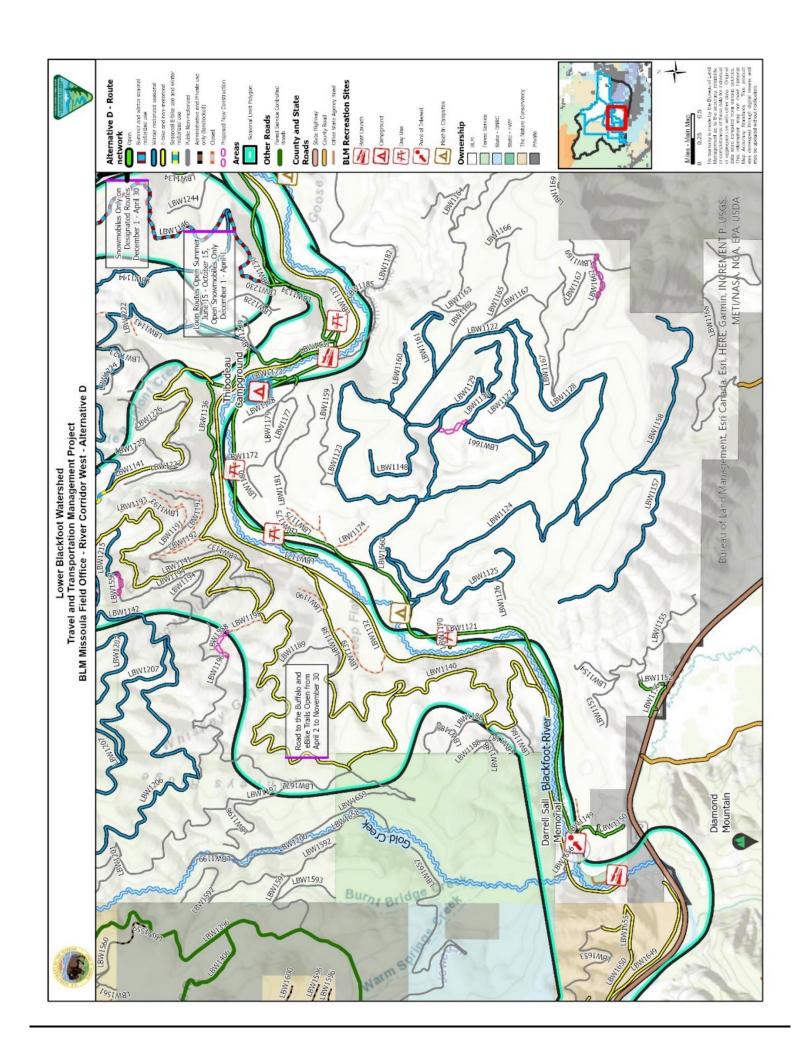


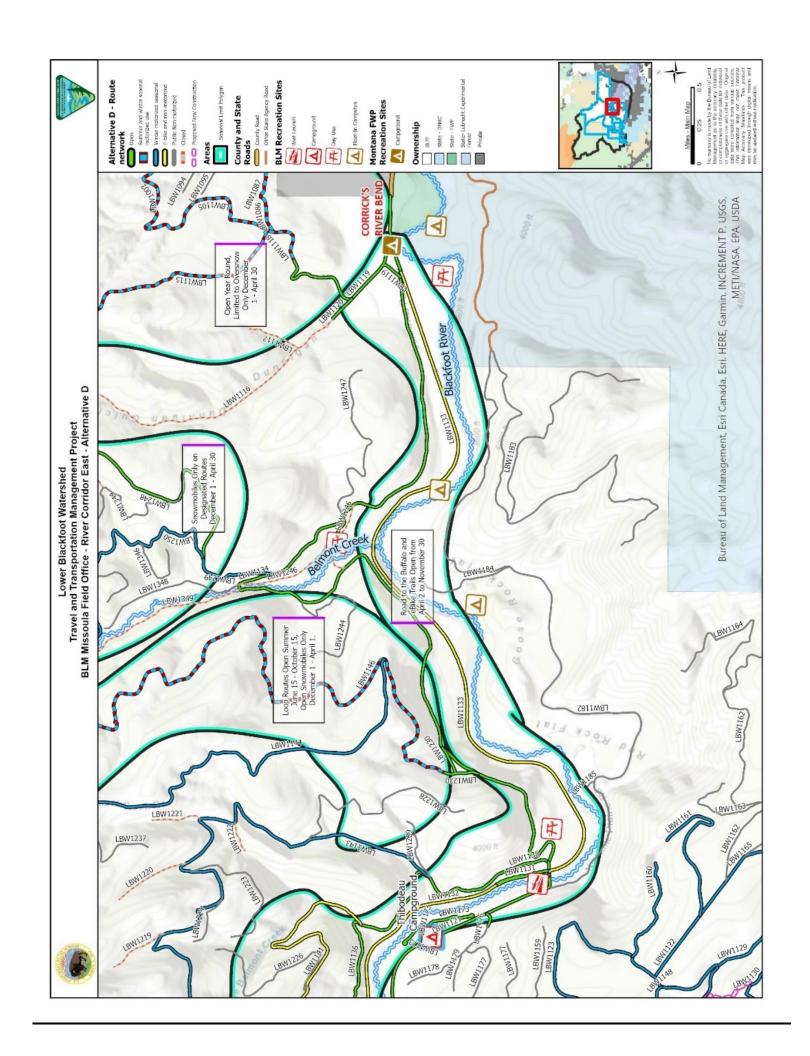












Morrison Mountain

After the original river corridor area acquisitions, BLM worked on acquiring lands from south of the River to the Highway 200 area – this is locally called the Morrison Mountain area. This area characterized by mixed conifer forests and includes several intermittent streams and wetland features. The landscape has populations of culturally important plants and provides some secure areas of big game summer and winter range.

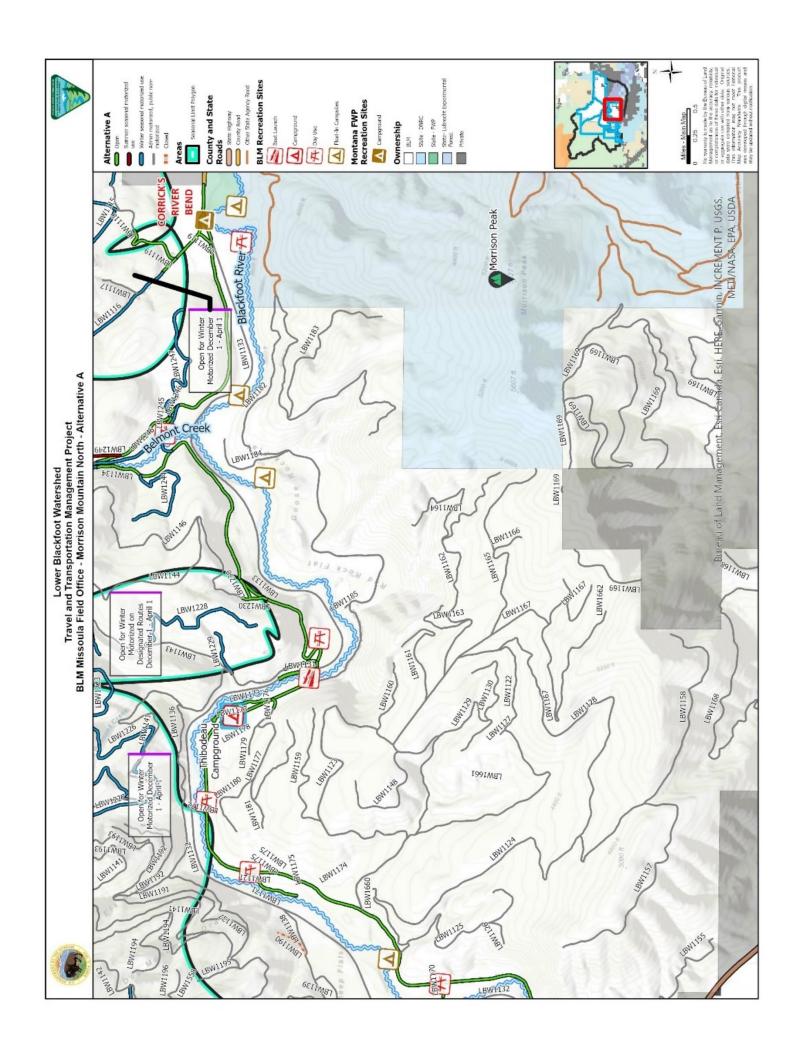
From previous public input, BLM manages this area for non-motorized (walk-in and bike) access; the area is located in the Morrison Mountain Block Management Area (FWP designation) for walk-in hunting on public lands including BLM, Montana DNRC, and lands owned by the University of Montana (Lubrecht Experimental Forest). The Morrison Mountain BMA is about 50 years old.

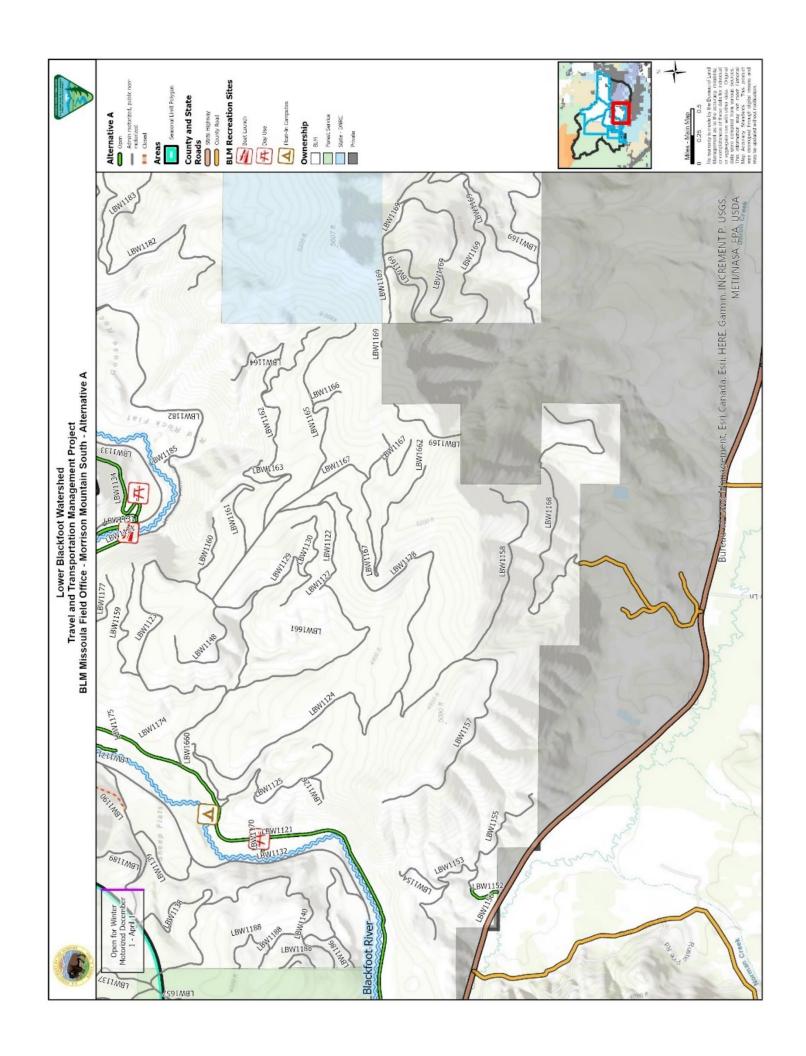
Themes being considered during travel management planning include:

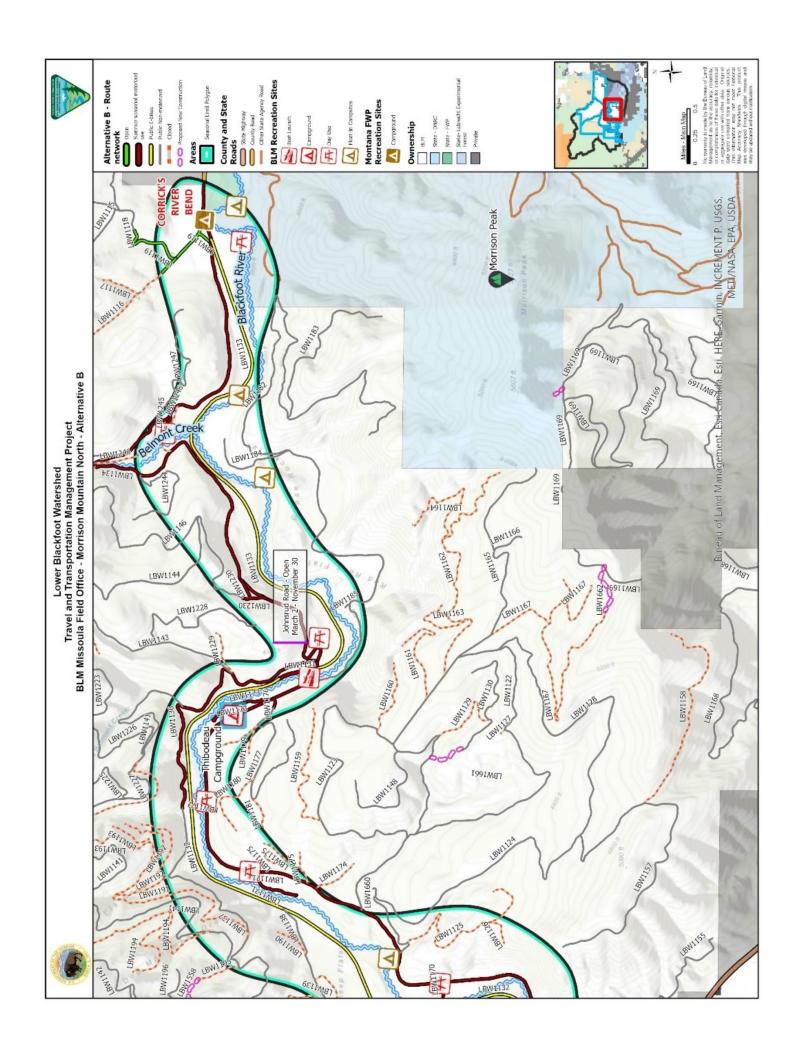
- Providing continued administrative access for forest health restoration treatments in areas adjacent to private lands in the wildland urban interface.
- Providing quiet walk-in hunting opportunities; there would be no changes to motorized access within the walk-in hunting areas.
- Consider additional snowmobile access loops in Alternative D.

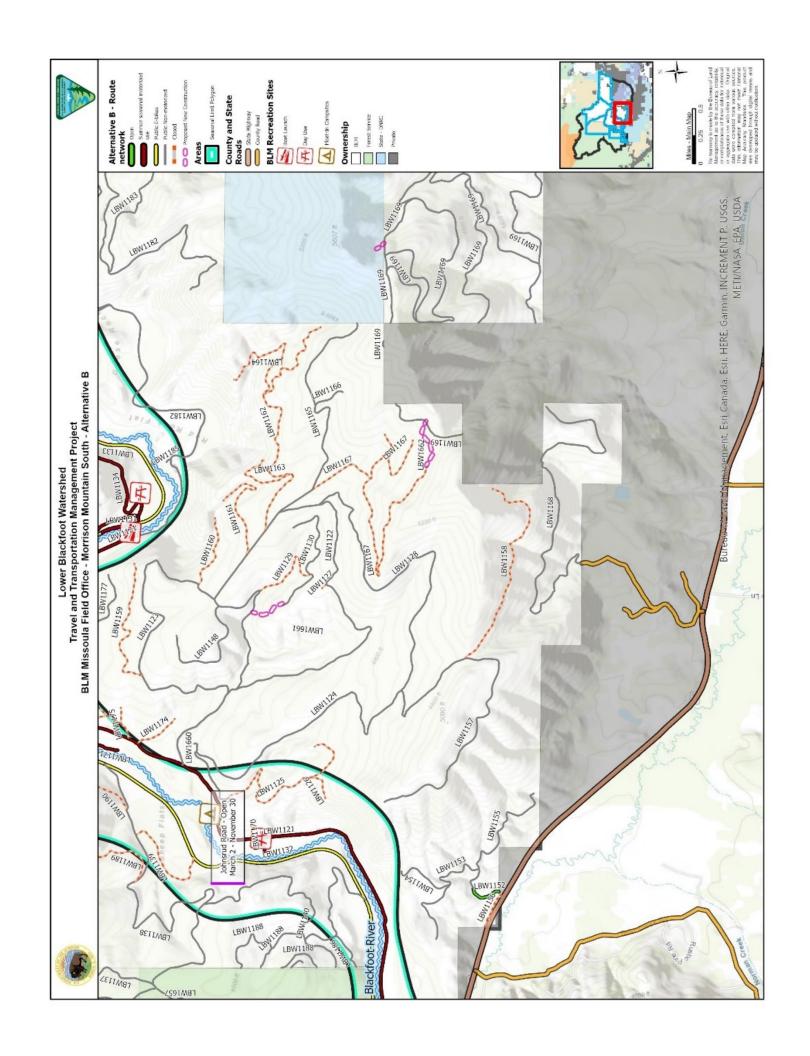
| Alternative | A | В | C | D |
|---|-------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Description | The existing condition. | A habitat security and aquatic quality focused option. | A compromise between alternatives B and D. | Creates the most motorized access. |
| | Miles of Road | | | |
| Open | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.46 | 0.46 |
| Summer and Winter Seasonal Motorized Use | - | - | - | - |
| Summer Seasonal Motorized Use Only | - | - | - | - |
| Winter Seasonal Motorized Use Only | - | - | - | 20 |
| Winter Nonmotorized Uses Only | - | - | - | - |
| E-bike and non motorized | - | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.08 |
| Administrative Motorized Access Only | 53 | 40 | 51 | 32 |
| Close to all Motorized (Roads Stored or Decommissioned) | - | 13 | 2 | 0.42 |
| New Road Construction | | | 0.15 | 0.15 |
| Undesignated (Do not construct) | 0.15 | 0.15 | | |

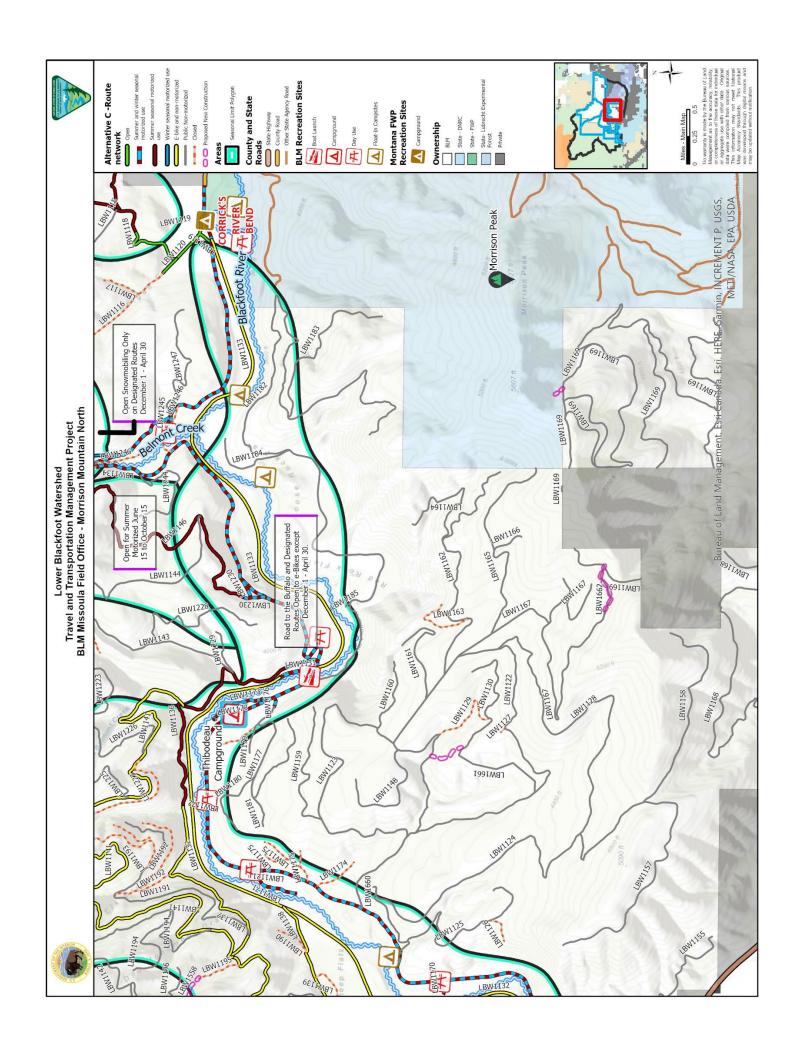
All areas are open to walk-in and non-motorized uses across all alternatives.

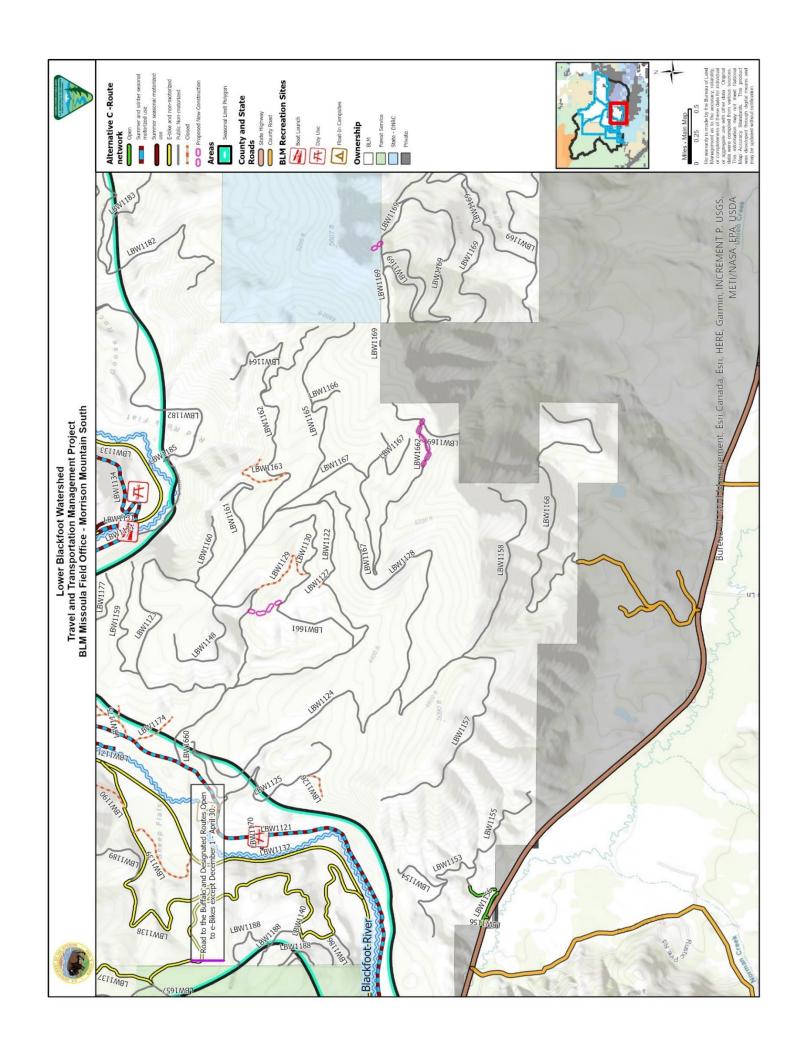


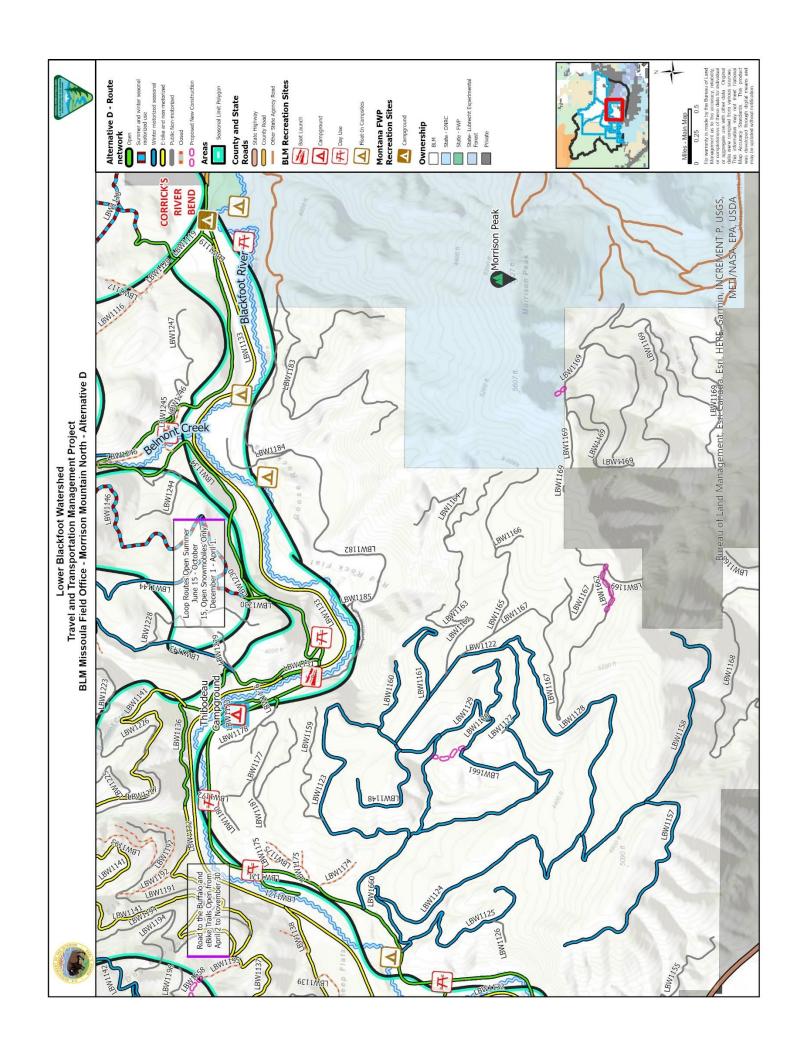


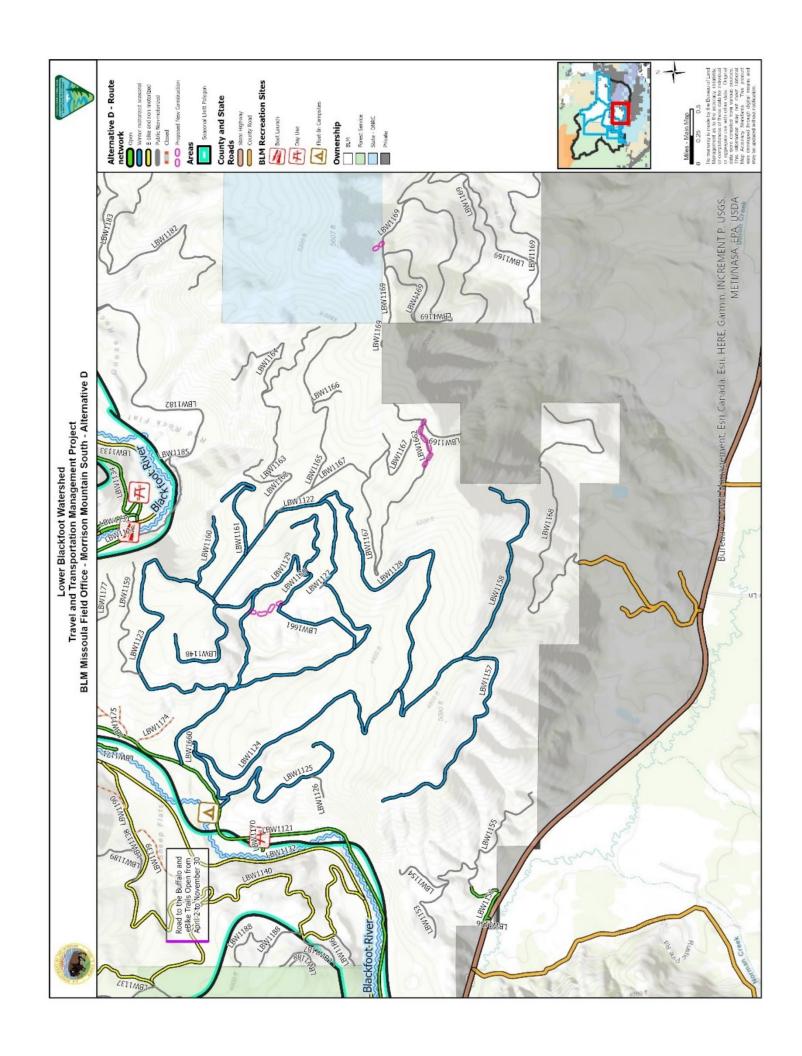












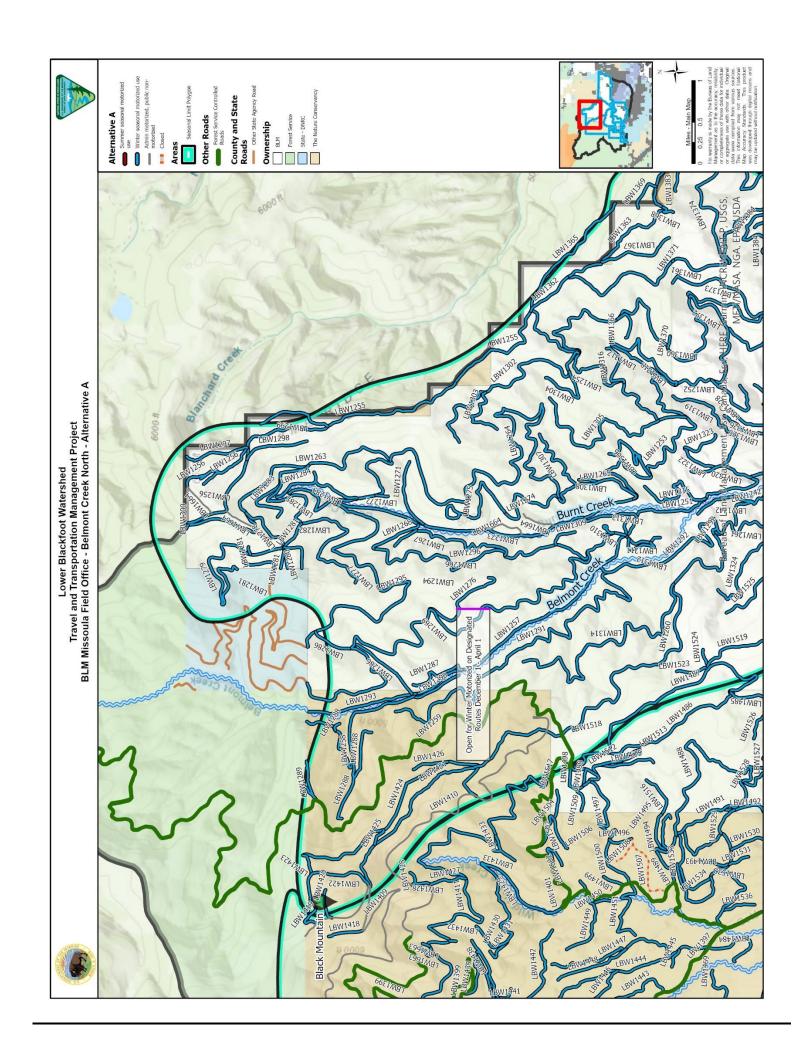
Belmont Creek

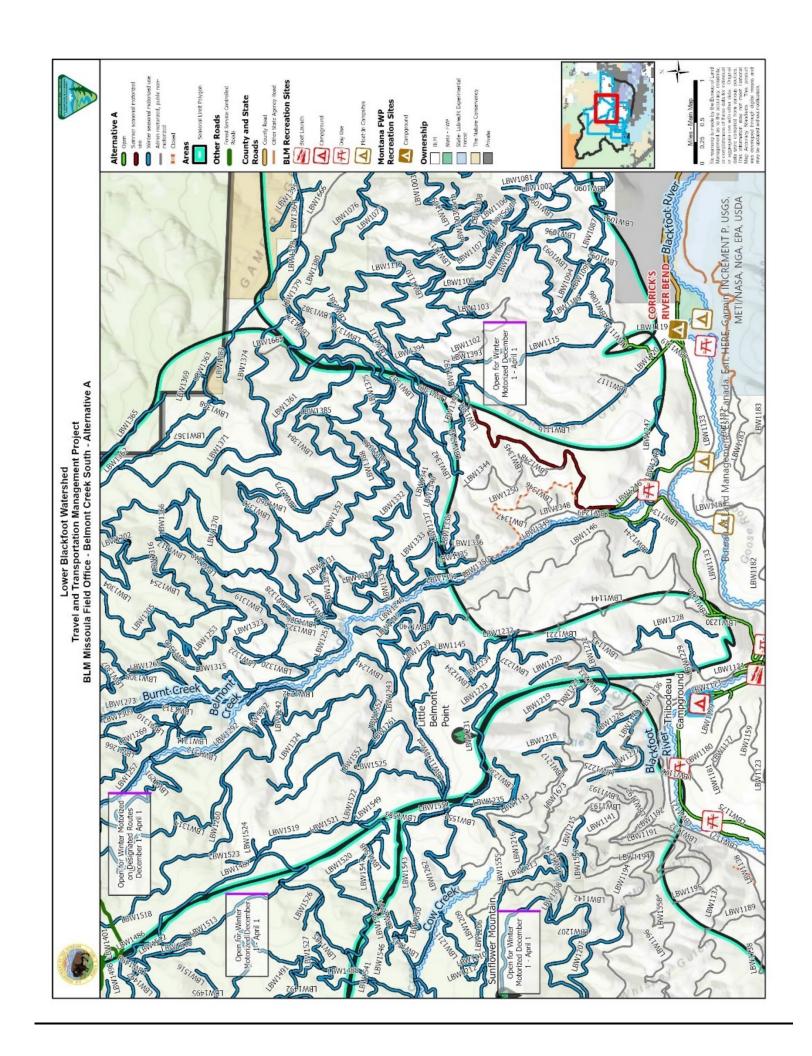
The lands in Belmont Creek were acquired between 2014 and 2019. This area was designated as a Fish Key Watershed in the Missoula Field Office Resource Management Plan, which prioritizes this area for restoration of aquatic habitat. Belmont Creek is considered Bull Trout Critical Habitat and is cold water refugia for this Threatened and Endangered Species and other cold water native fish like westslope cutthroat trout. This area is also a stronghold for wildlife security – including elk winter range and documented habitat for grizzly bear, Canada Lynx, and wolverine. Belmont Creek includes an active grazing allotment in the southern half of the watershed.

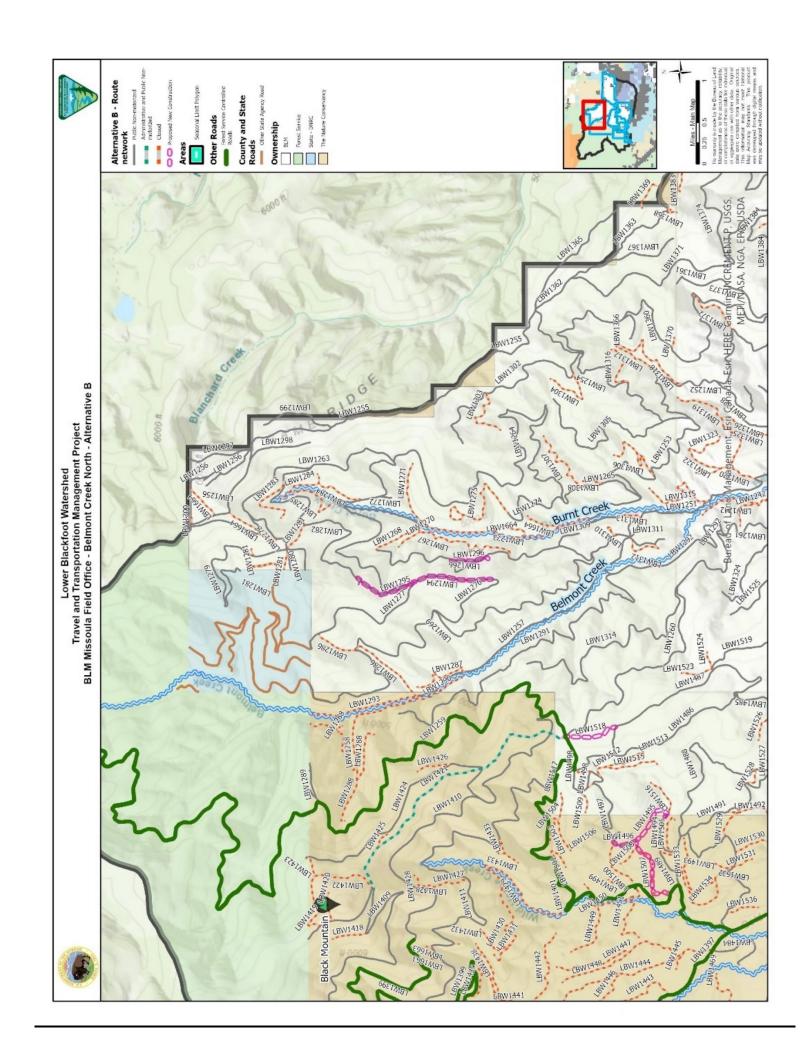
During previous public envisioning, we heard that Belmont Creek is an important wildlife security area and there was general sentiment to manage the area for non-motorized uses. It was noted that the area presents opportunities for aquatic restoration treatments, which include opportunities to re-route road access and close and decommission roads located in the floodplain of Belmont and Burnt Creek. We also heard that Belmont Creek continues to be an important and productive forest products resource and there is a need to maintain the needed network of routes for long-term forest health treatments.

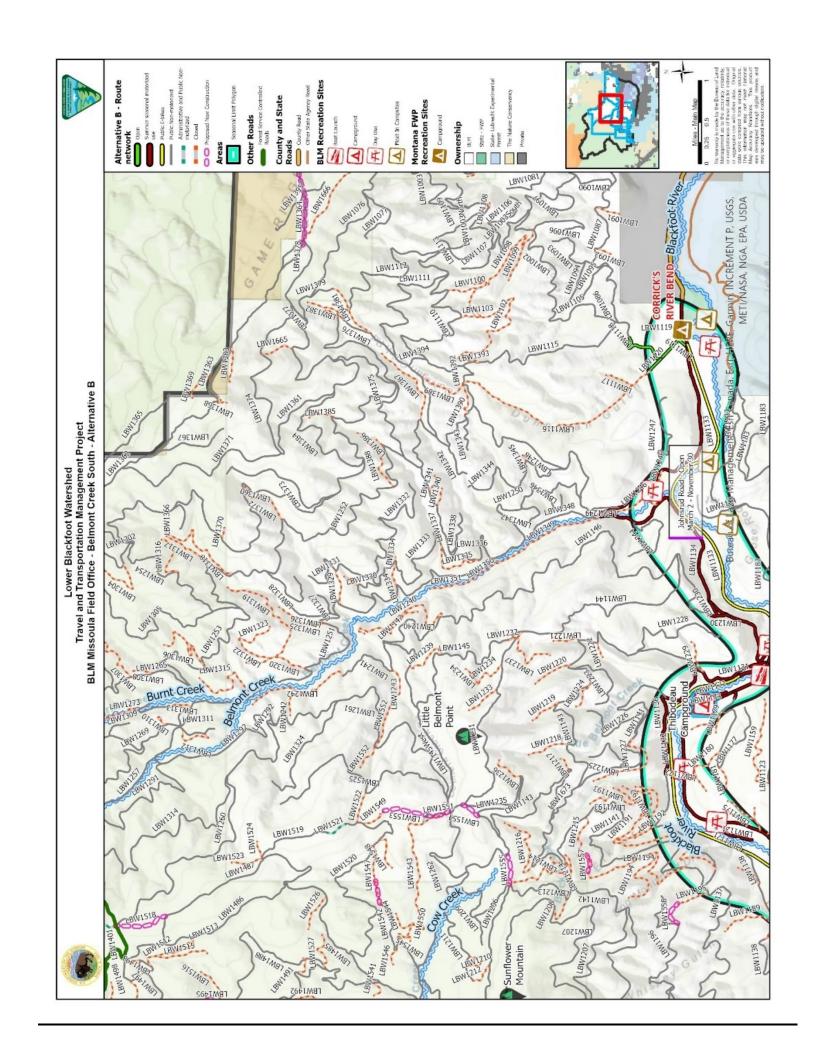
| Alternative | A | В | C | D | |
|---|-------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Description | The existing condition. | A habitat security and aquatic quality focused option. | A compromis e between alternatives B and D. | Creates the most motorized access. | |
| | | Miles of Road | | | |
| Open | 1.6 | 0 | 1.6 | 3.2 | |
| Summer and Winter Seasonal Motorized Use | - | - | - | - | |
| Summer Seasonal Motorized Use Only | - | - | 12 | - | |
| Winter Seasonal Motorized Use Only | 154 | 1.6 | 24 | 69 | |
| Winter Nonmotorized Uses Only | - | - | - | - | |
| E-bike and non motorized | - | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | |
| Administrative Motorized Access Only | 9 | 124 | 101 | 73 | |
| Close to all Motorized (Roads Stored or Decommissioned) | 2 | 40 | 28 | 21 | |
| New Construction Reroutes | | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.7 | |
| Undesignated | 3 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 2.1 | |
| | 1 | l | | l | |

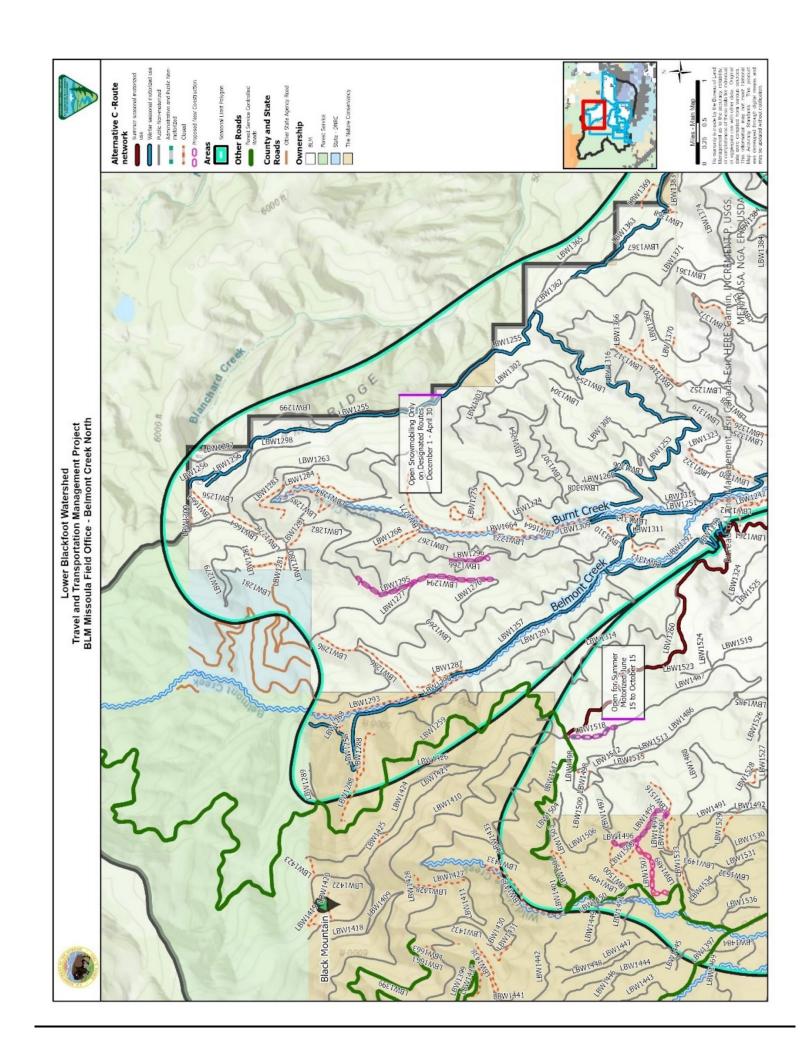
All areas are open to walk-in and non-motorized uses across all alternatives.

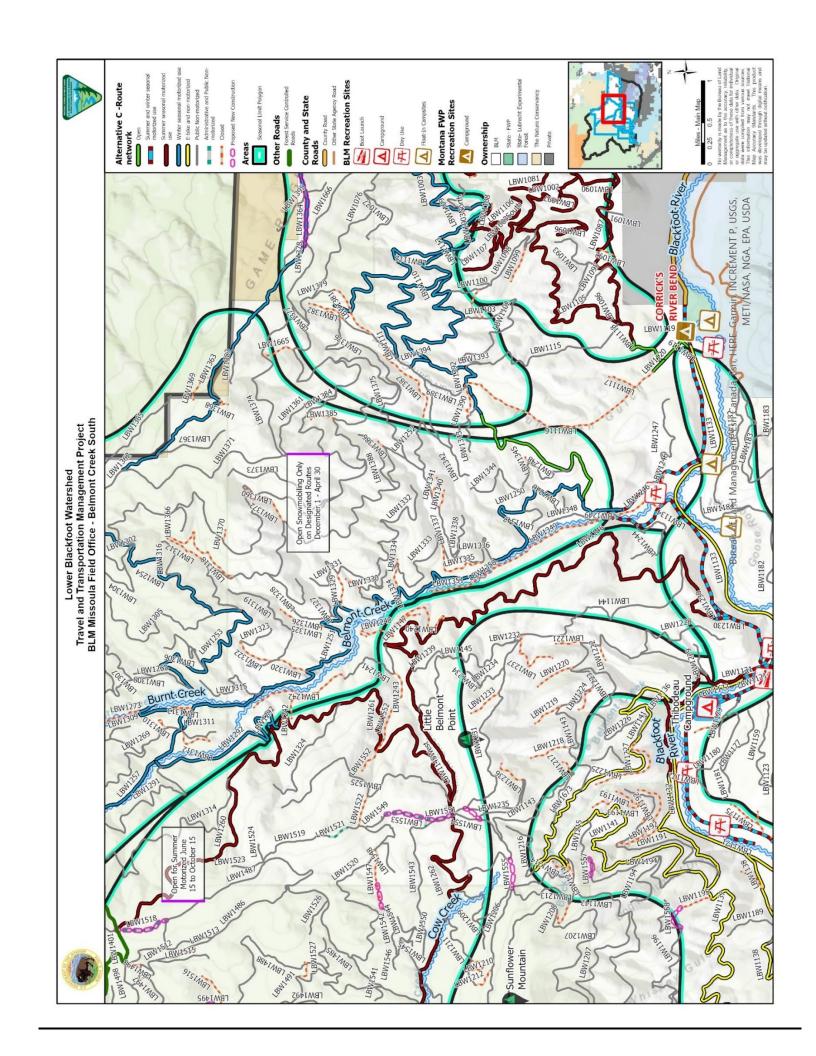


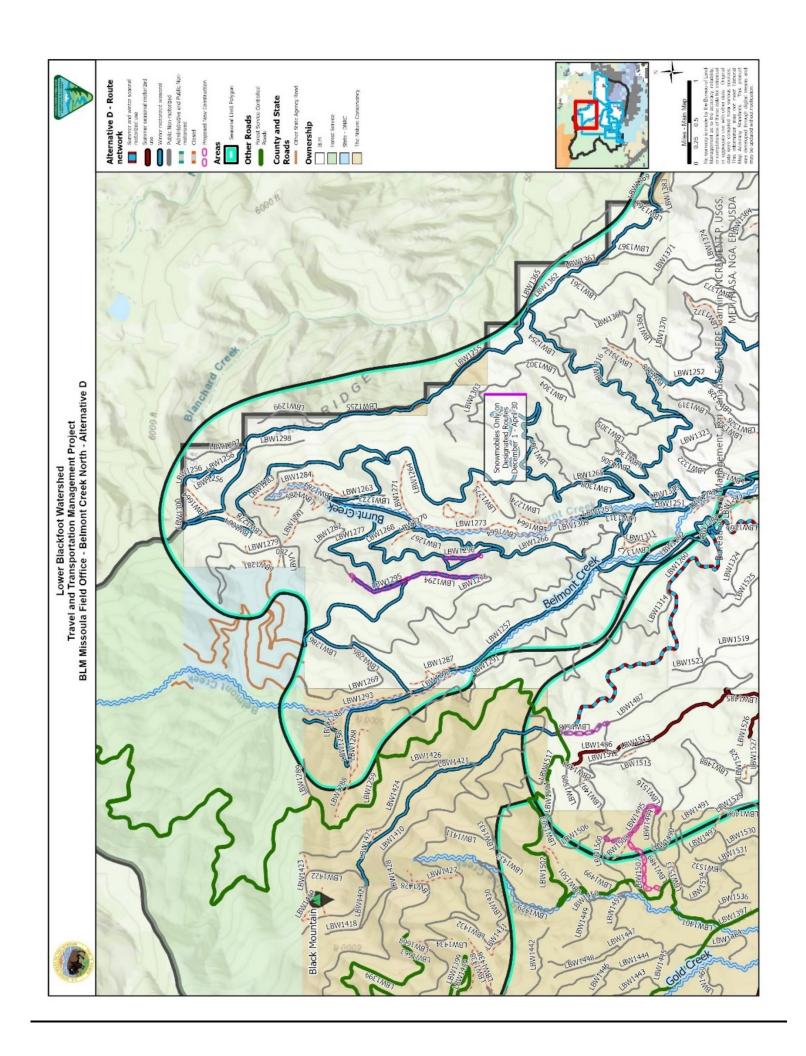


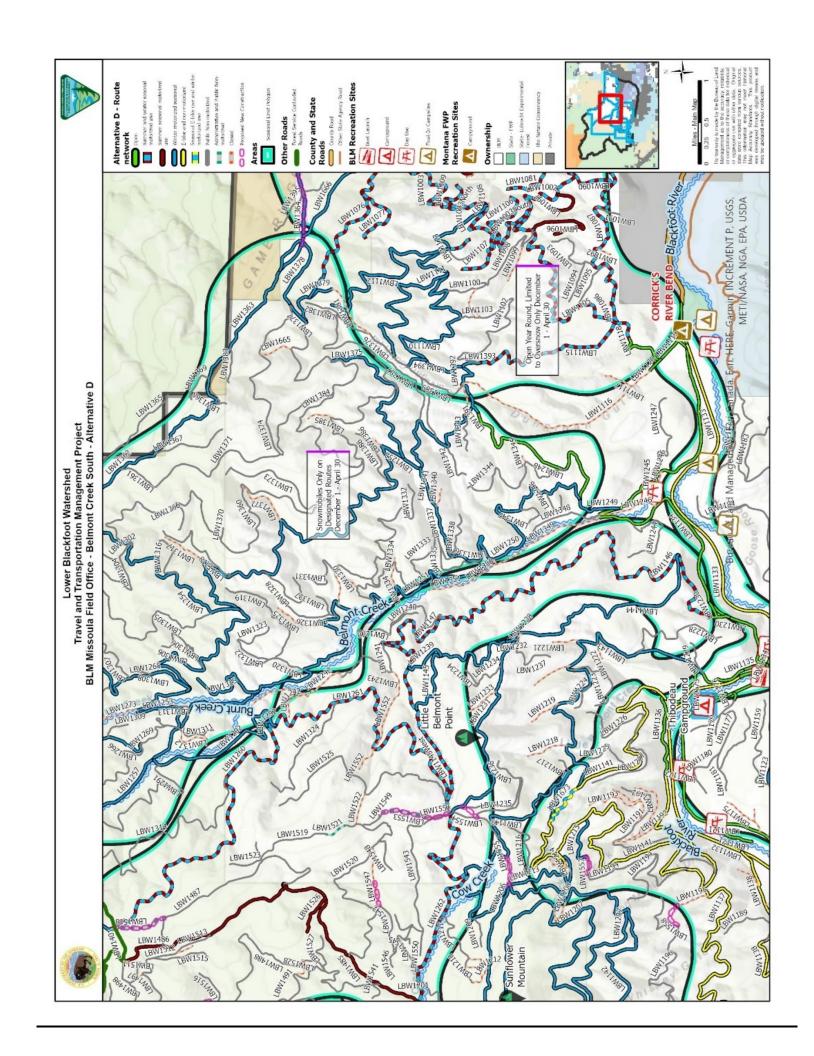












Sunflower Mountain and Little Belmont Point

The Sunflower Mountain and Little Belmont Point area provide connectivity between two primary recreation areas, including the river recreation corridor and Gold Creek. This area is largely closed to motorized uses in the existing condition, and it is considered elk winter range and supports important cultural resource areas.

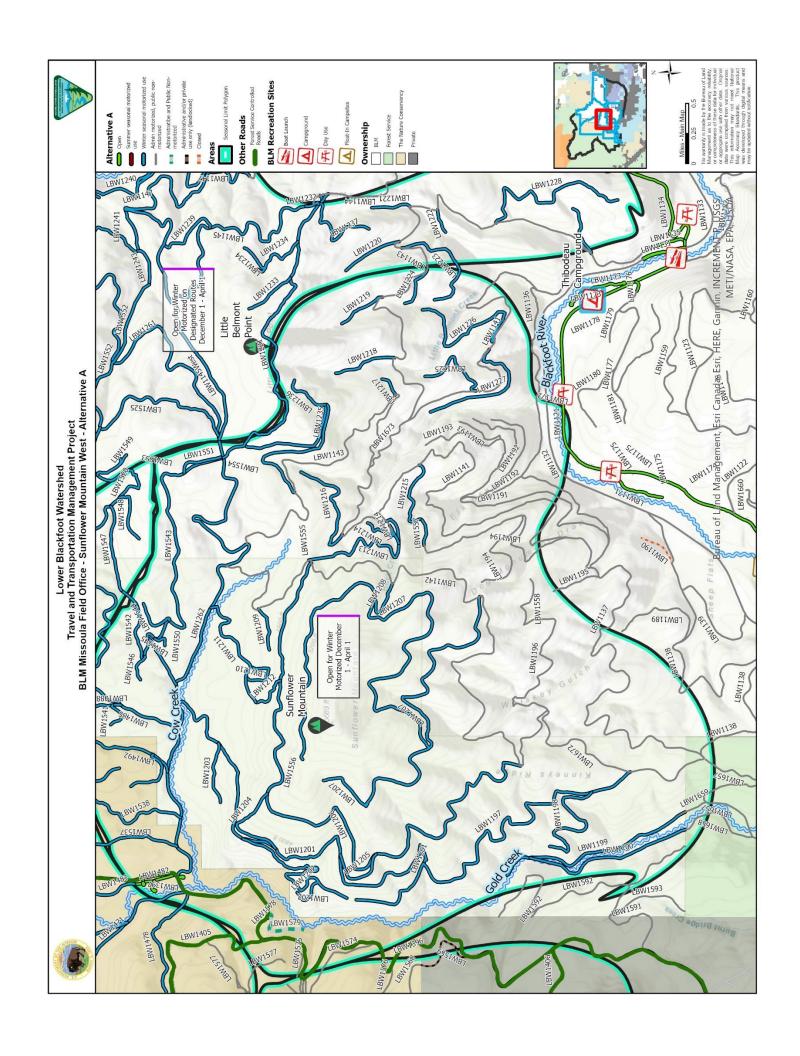
During previous envisioning sessions, this was documented as a significant area for collection of traditional culturally important plant products.

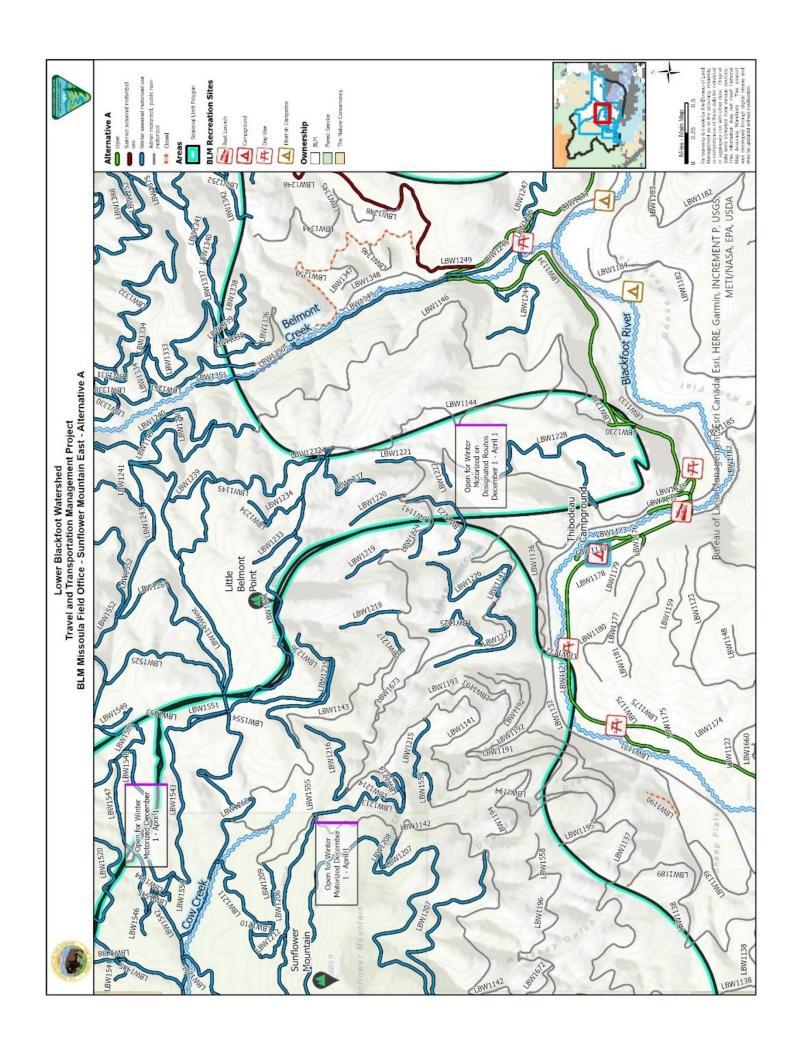
Themes being considered in this area:

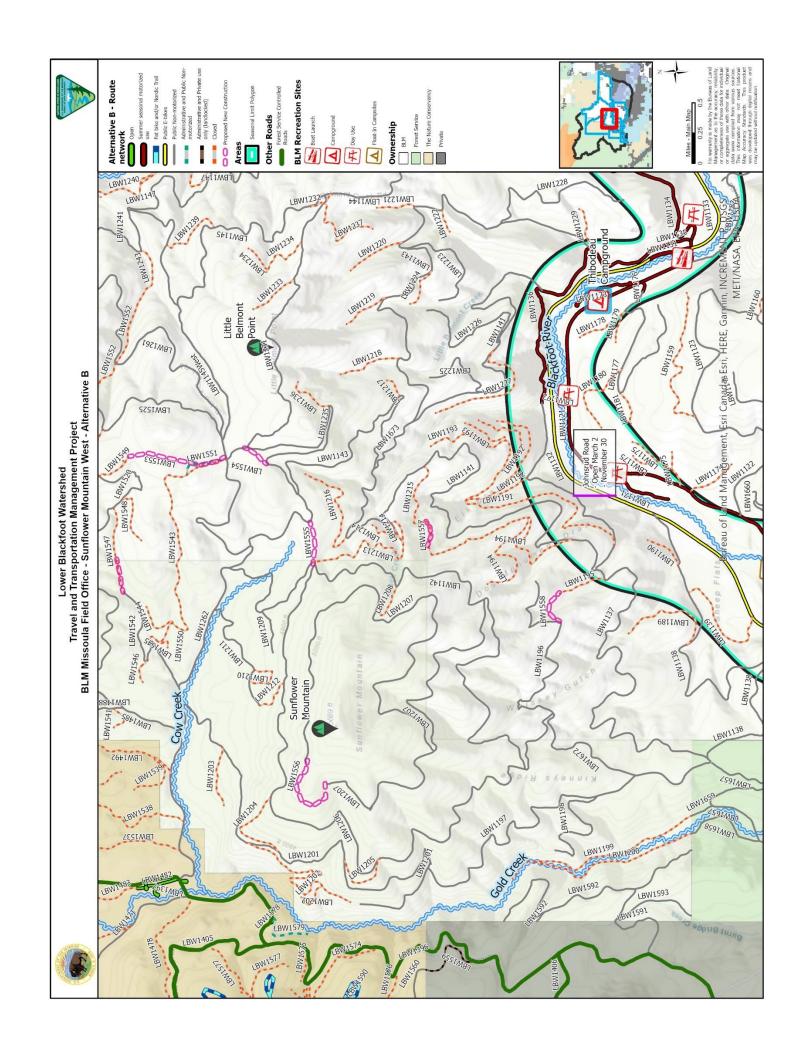
- Providing for quiet, non-motorized recreation opportunities that allow for tribal reconnection with their aboriginal homelands.
- Manage for important cultural resource values including key plant populations and important sites.
- Providing continued administrative access for forest health restoration treatments in areas adjacent to private lands in the wildland urban interface.
- Considering over-the-snow winter recreation trail opportunities connecting the river corridor area from Johnsrud to Gold Creek on designated trails.

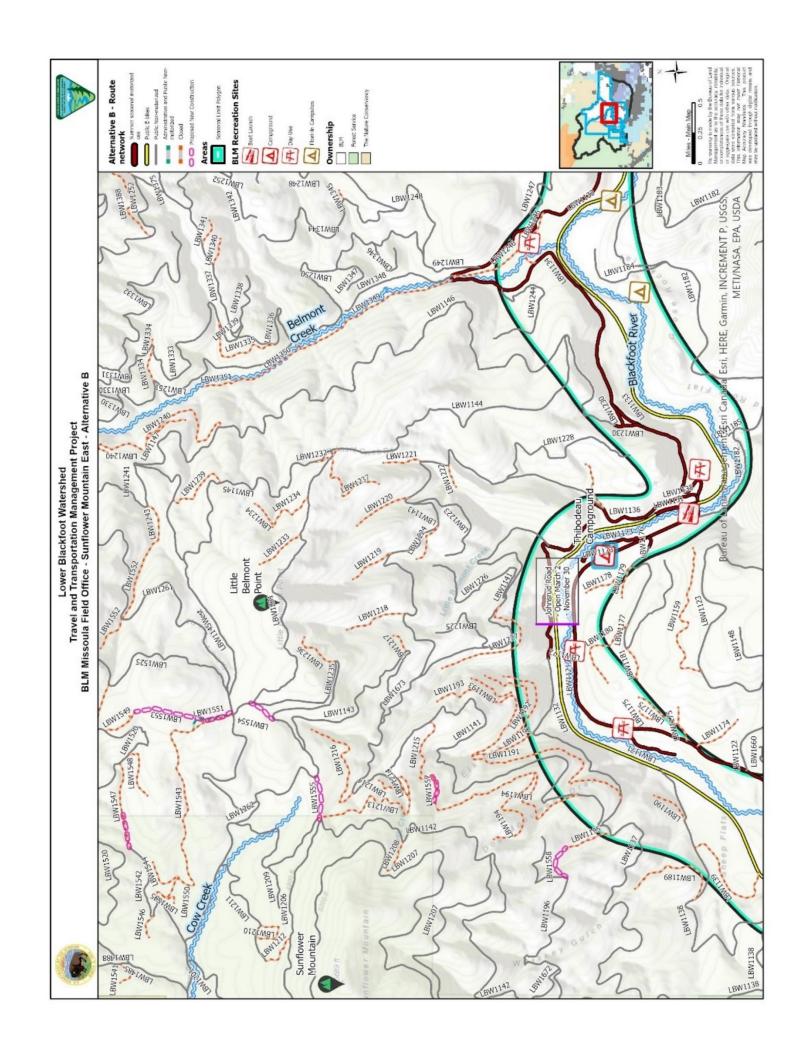
| Alternative | A | В | C | D |
|---|-------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Description | The existing condition. | A habitat security and aquatic quality focused option. | A compromise between alternatives B and D. | Creates the most motorized access. |
| | Miles of Road | | | |
| Open | 1.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 1.2 |
| Summer and Winter Seasonal Motorized Use | - | - | 1.2 | 1.0 |
| Summer Seasonal Motorized Use Only | - | 1.2 | 1 | - |
| Winter Seasonal Motorized Use Only | 34 | - | 0 | 24 |
| Winter Nonmotorized Uses Only | - | - | - | - |
| E-bike and non motorized | - | - | 6.4 | 6.4 |
| Administrative Motorized Access Only | 29 | 46 | 49 | 28 |
| Close to all Motorized (Roads Stored or Decommissioned) | - | 17 | 7 | 5 |
| New Construction Reroutes | - | - | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| Undesignated (0.5 miles do not construct new and 0.6 miles previously undesignated) | 1.1 | 1.1 | 0.2 | - |

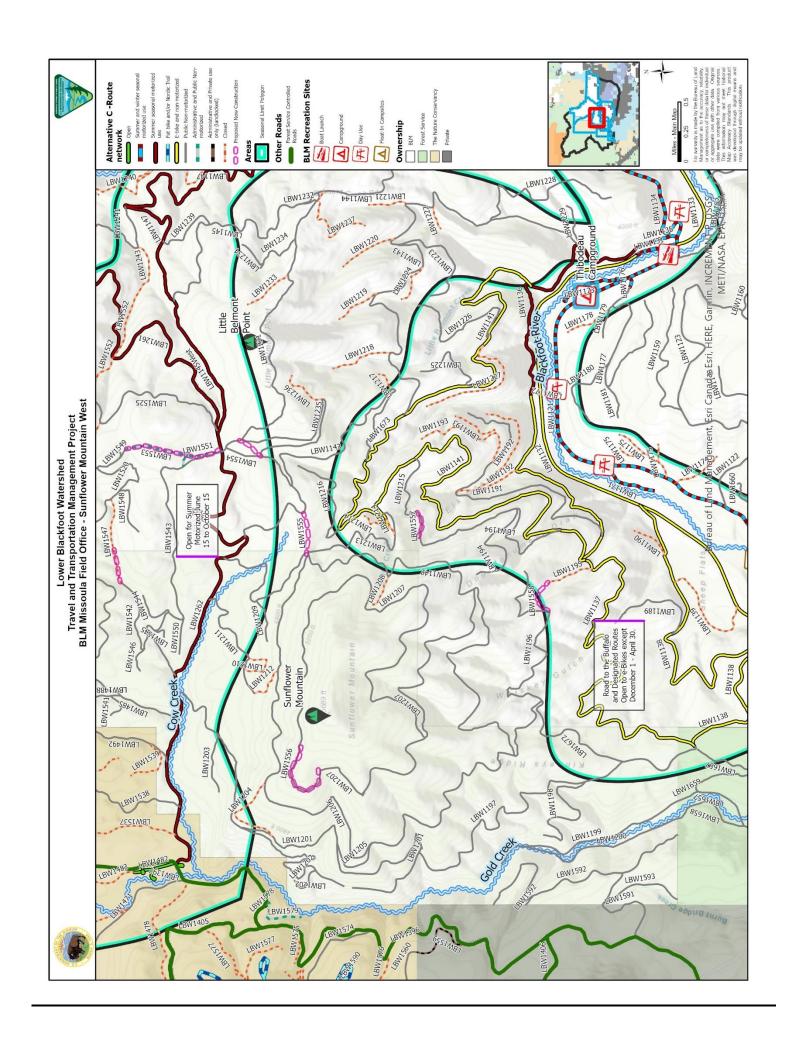
All areas are open to walk-in and non-motorized uses across all alternatives.

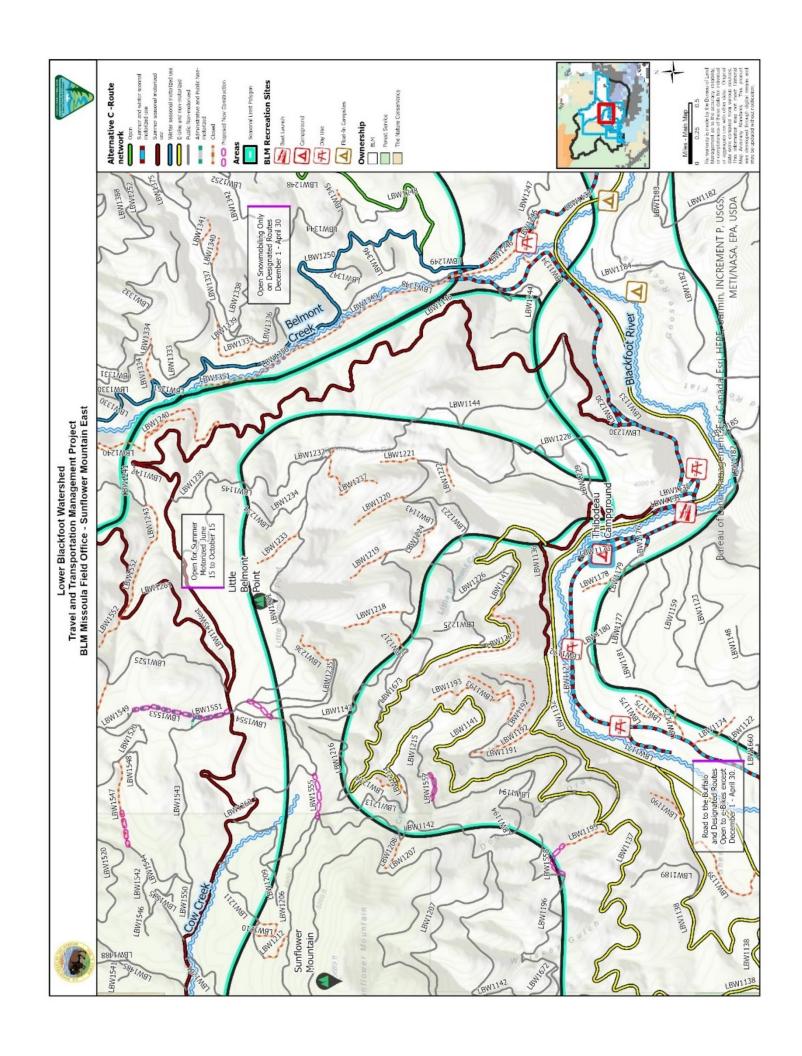


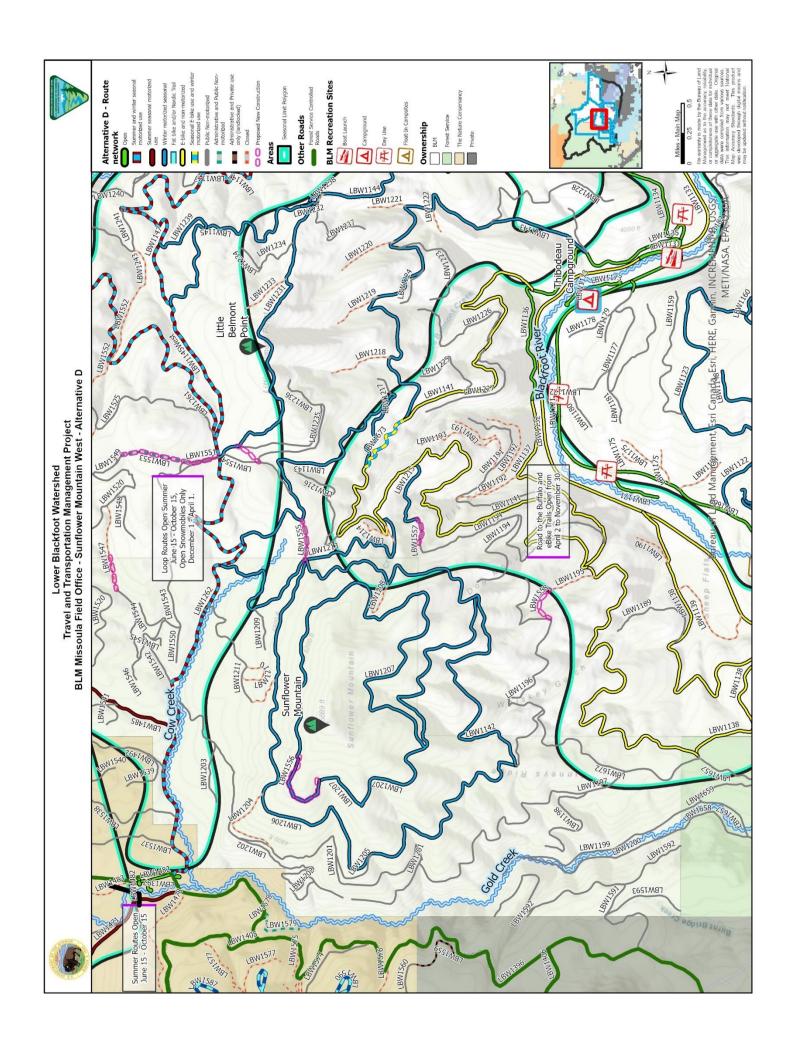


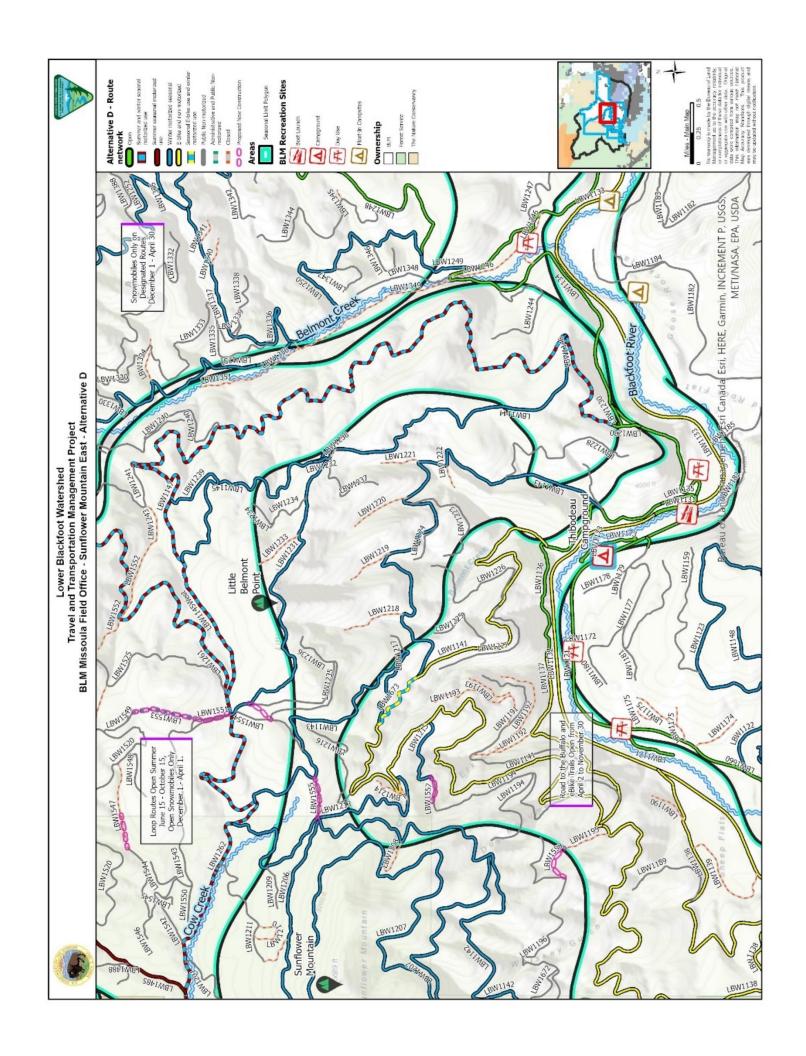












Ninemile and Woodchuck

The Ninemile and Woodchuck land acquisitions took place in 2019 and 2022 – these lands encompass the south facing slopes in open, dry forest types along the Ninemile Prairie area. This land includes connectivity into private inholdings and neighboring land management agencies that is being prioritized for continued use. In its current condition, this area is gated and open to non-motorized uses only.

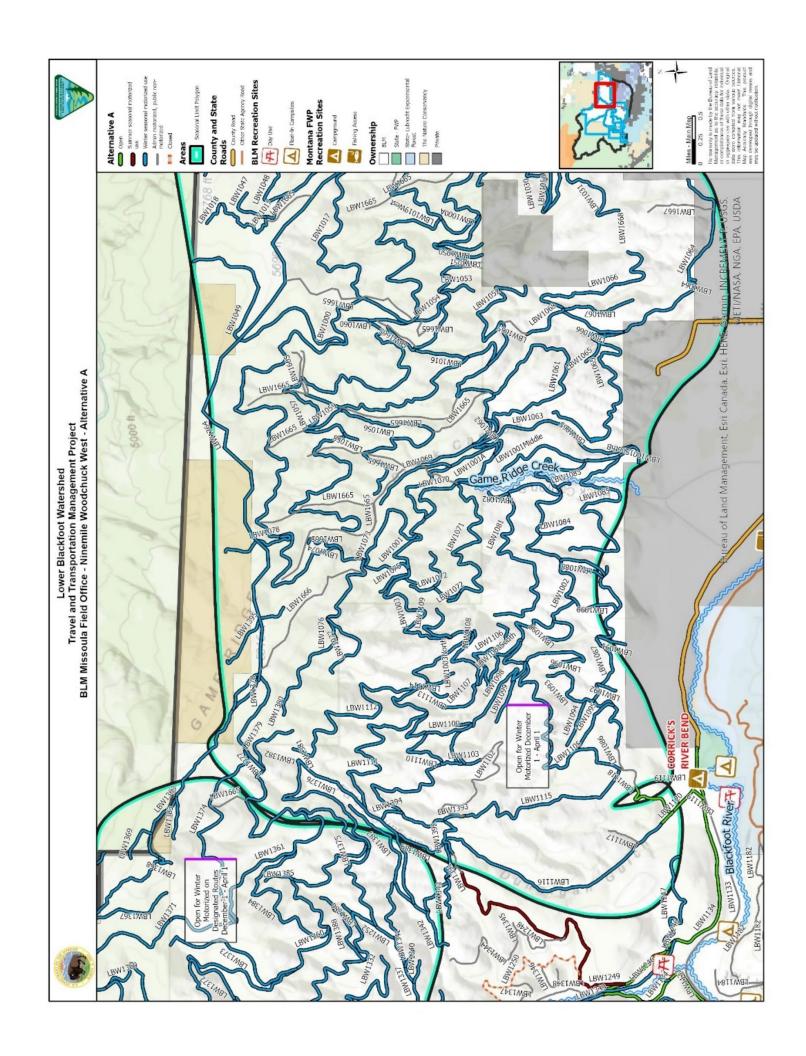
The Ninemile and Woodchuck area includes an active grazing allotment and has important resources for culturally important plants and big game winter range.

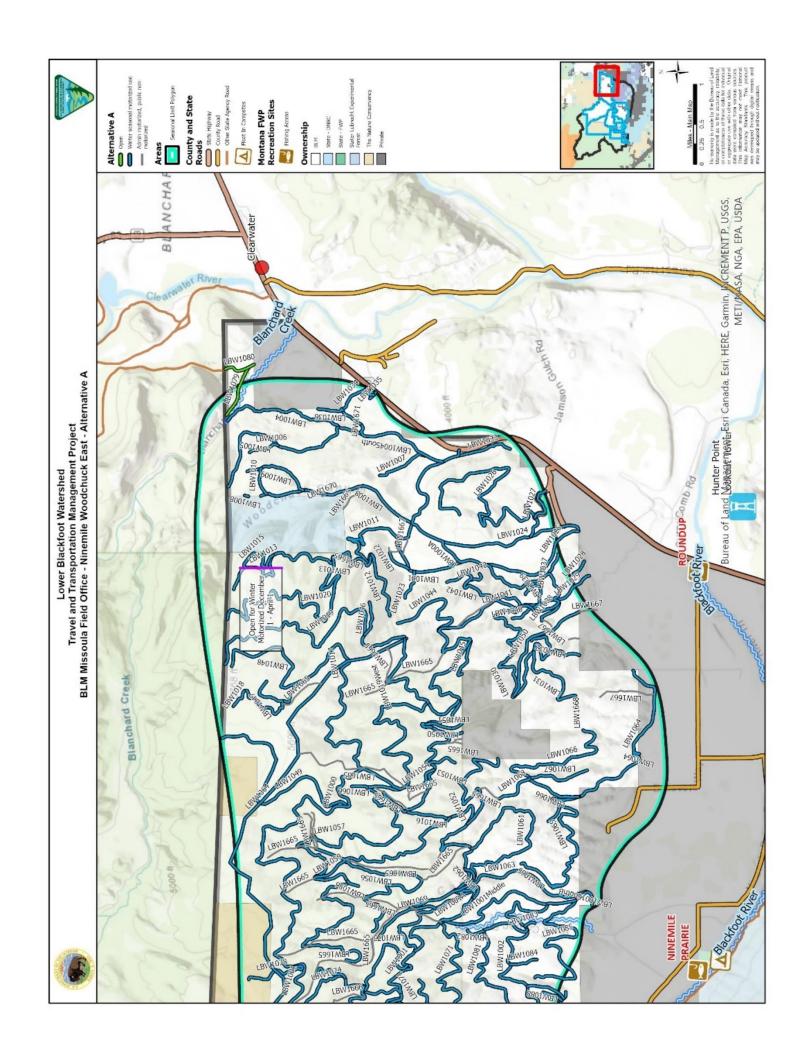
Themes being considered in this area include:

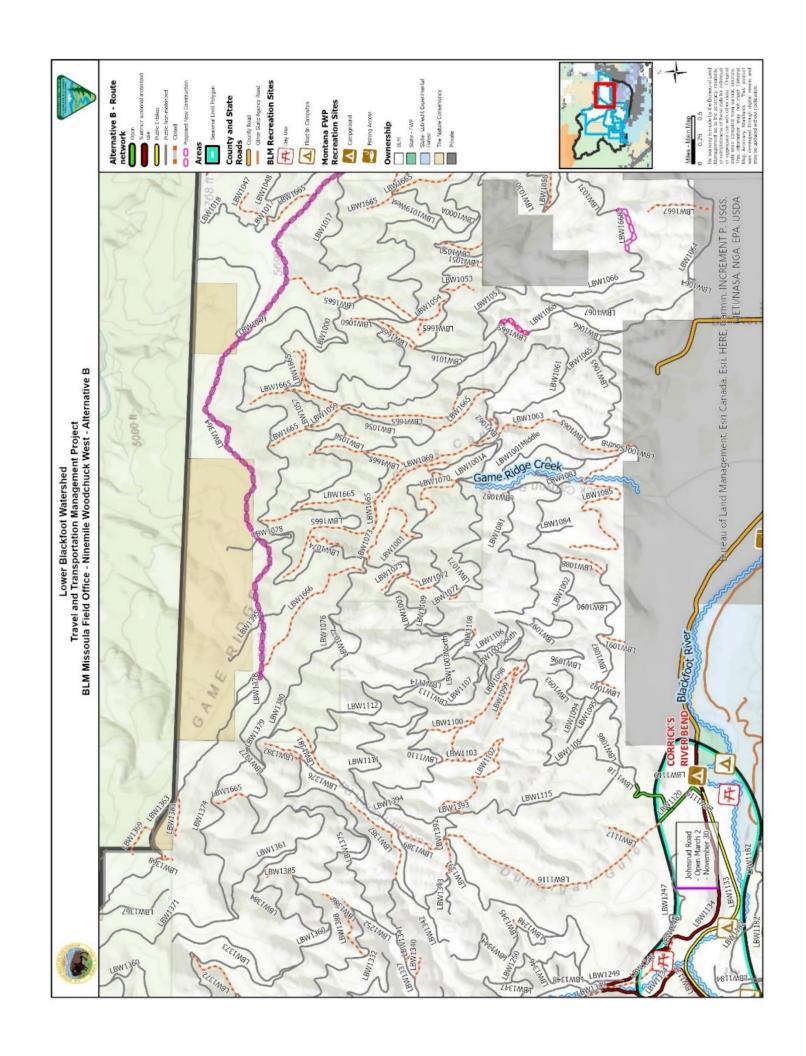
- Provide seasonally open motorized loops for activities like spring wildflower viewing or access for hunting season.
- Provide over the snow motorized access connection routes that connect to other geographic areas and trail networks on US Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy lands.
- Providing continued administrative access for forest health restoration treatments in areas adjacent to private lands in the wildland urban interface.

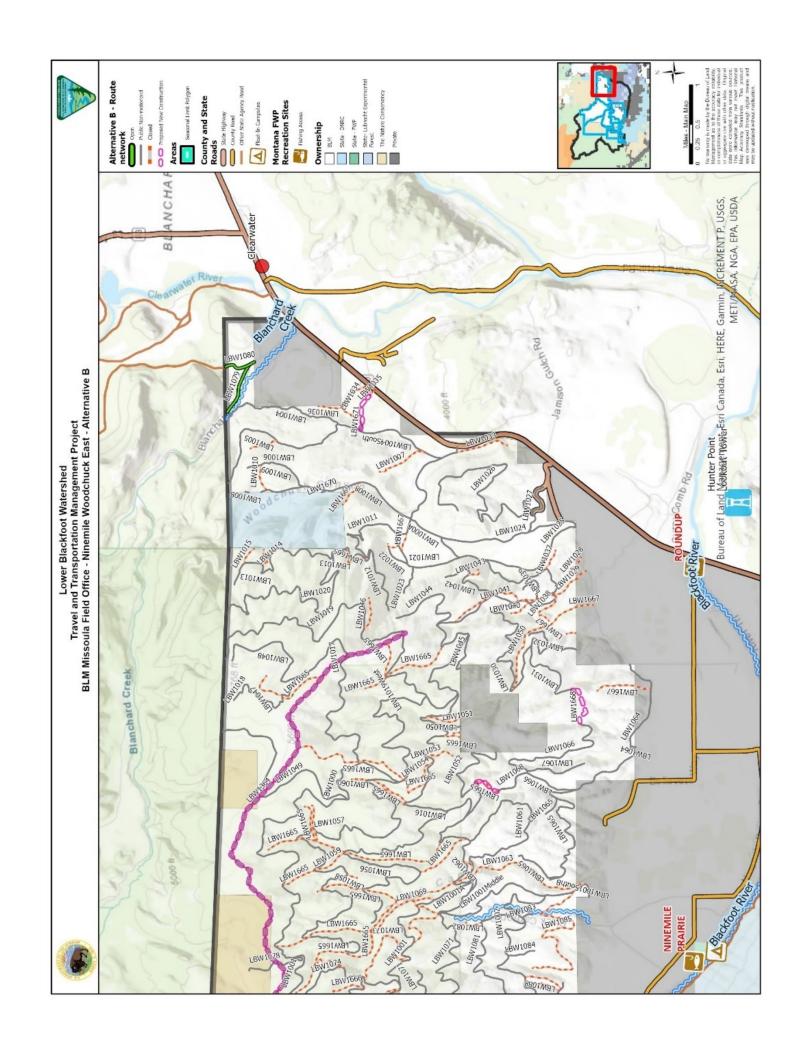
| Alternative | A | В | C | D |
|---|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| Description | The existing condition. | A habitat security and aquatic quality focused option. | A compromise between alternatives B and D. | Creates the most motorized access. |
| | Miles of Road | | | |
| Open | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 2.3 |
| Summer and Winter Seasonal Motorized Use | | | 9.6 | 42.7 |
| Summer Seasonal Motorized Use Only | 0.06 | 0.2 | 28.5 | 37 |
| Winter Seasonal Motorized Use Only | 130 | | 25.2 | 29 |
| Winter Nonmotorized Uses Only | | | | |
| E-bike and non motorized | | | | |
| Administrative Motorized Access Only | 15 | 111 | 58 | 16 |
| Close to all Motorized (Roads Stored or Decommissioned) | | 34.8 | 25 | 22 |
| New Construction Reroutes | | | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| Undesignated (Do not construct new) | 0.6 | 0.6 | | |

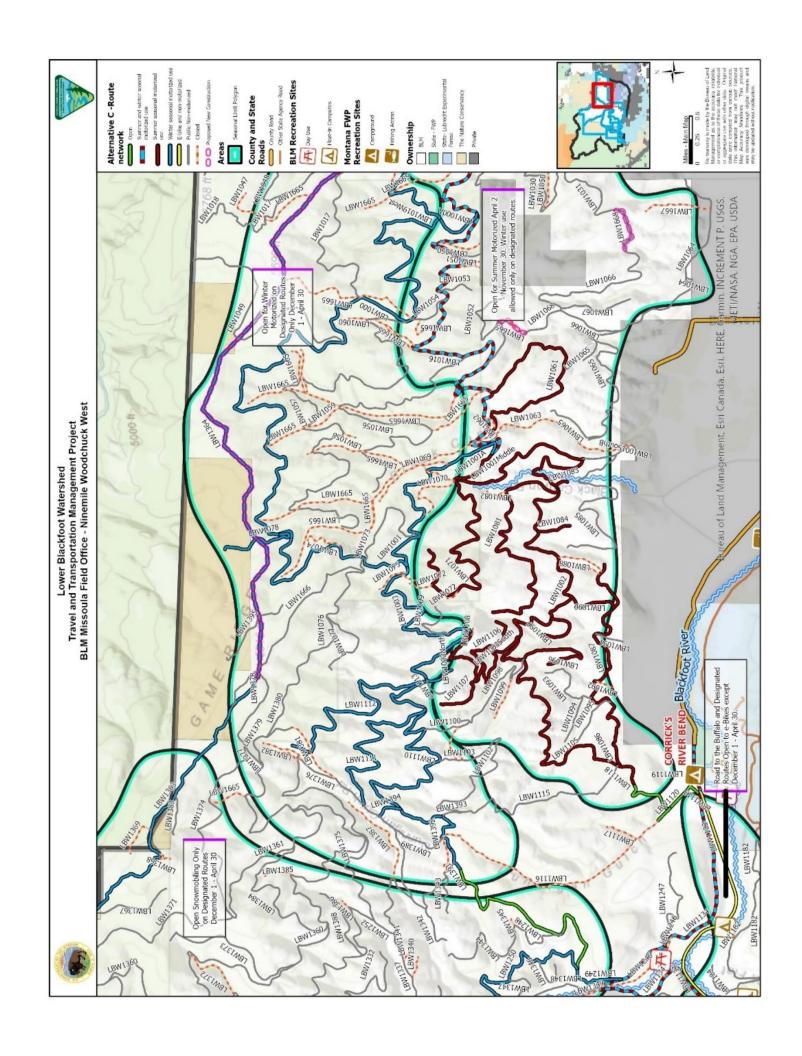
All areas are open to walk-in and non-motorized uses across all alternatives.

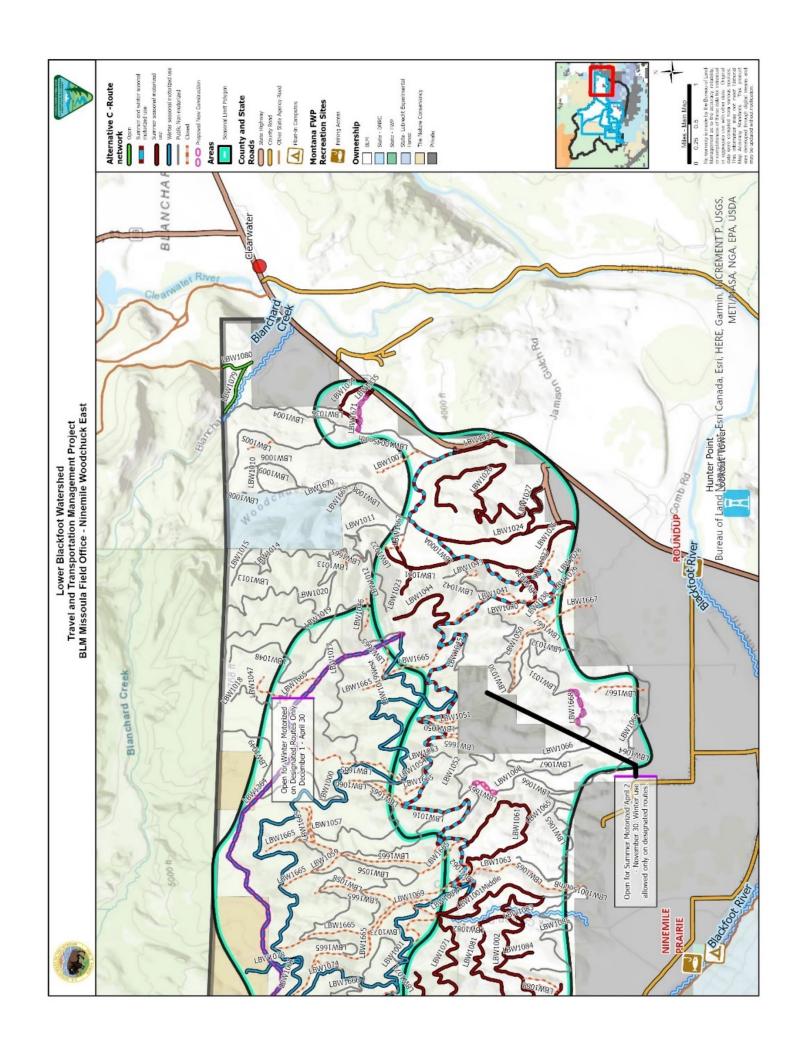


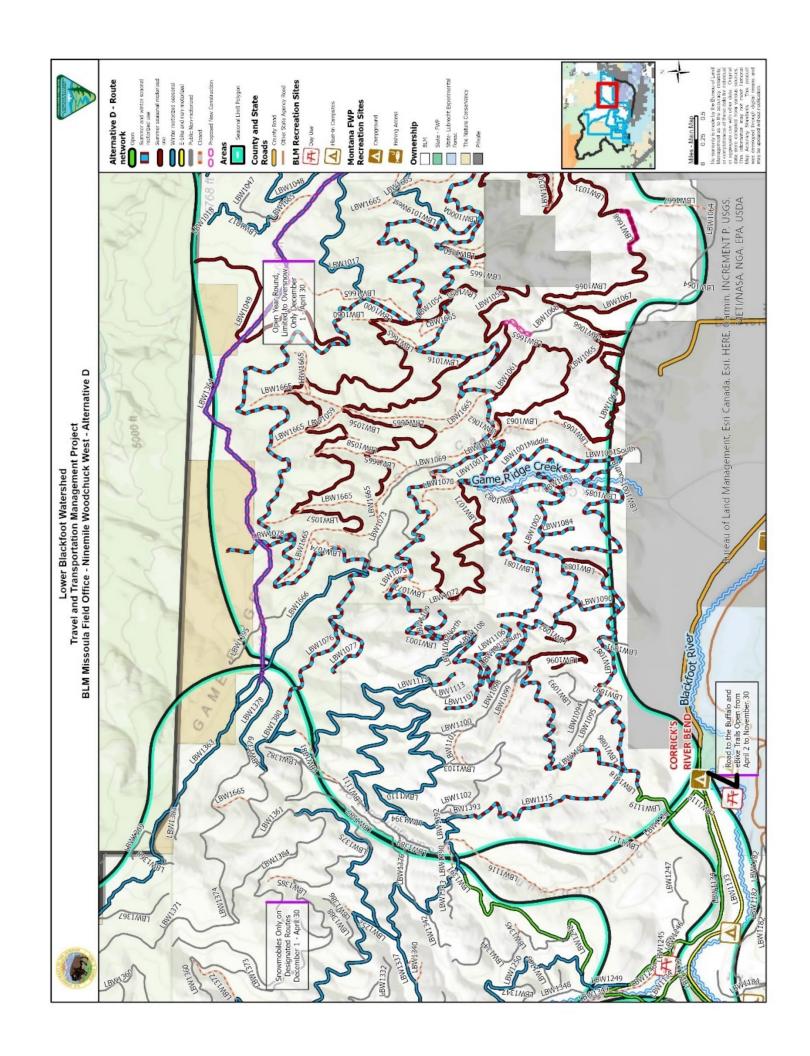


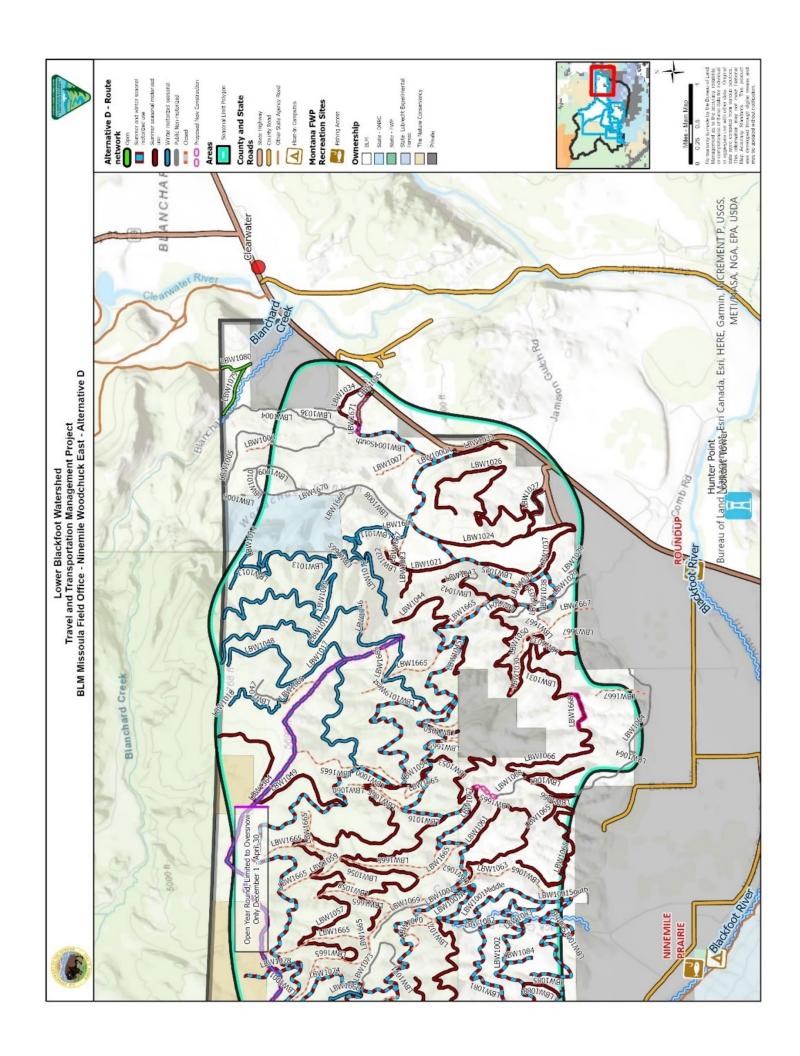












Upper Gold Creek

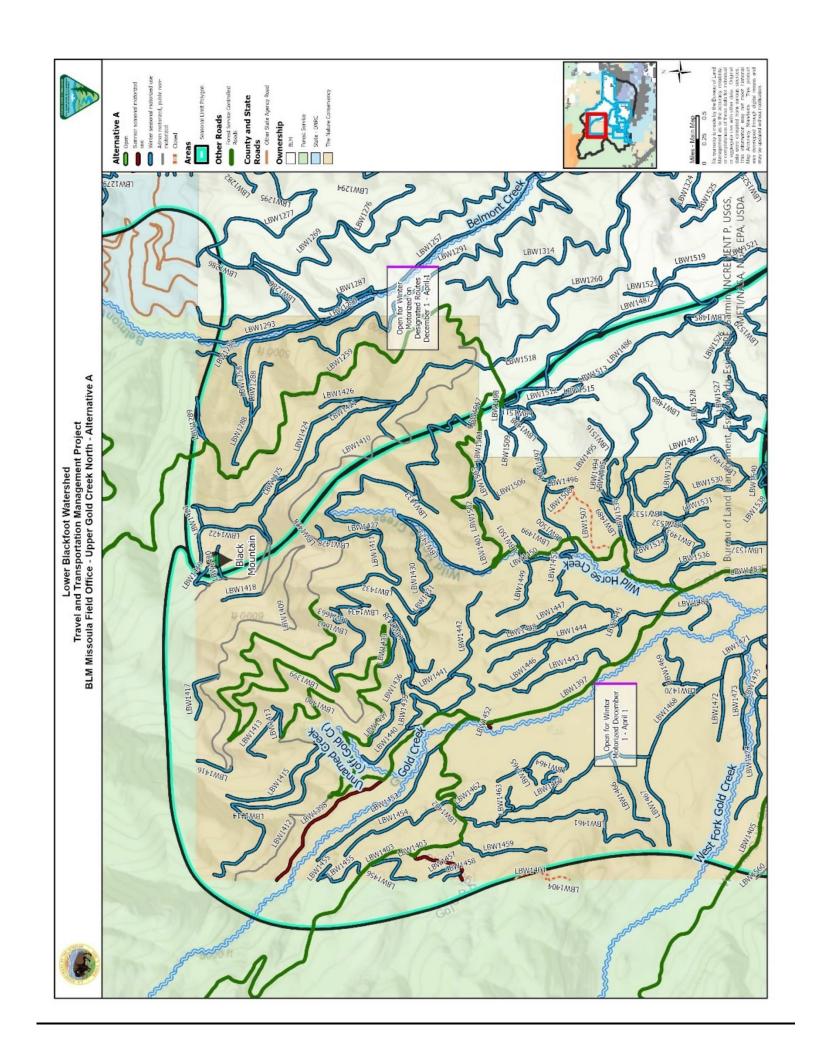
The Upper Gold Creek area provides access to several Forest Service trailheads for the Rattlesnake Wilderness area on the Missoula Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. As the BLM acquires these lands, Missoula Field Office will work closely with the Forest Service to manage continued access on roads to important recreation trailheads and through routes. The Upper Gold Creek area includes several large fire scars where The Nature Conservancy, Forest Service, and BLM are focused on continued forest management projects like tree planting, commercial and non-commercial small tree thinning, and prescribed fire treatments.

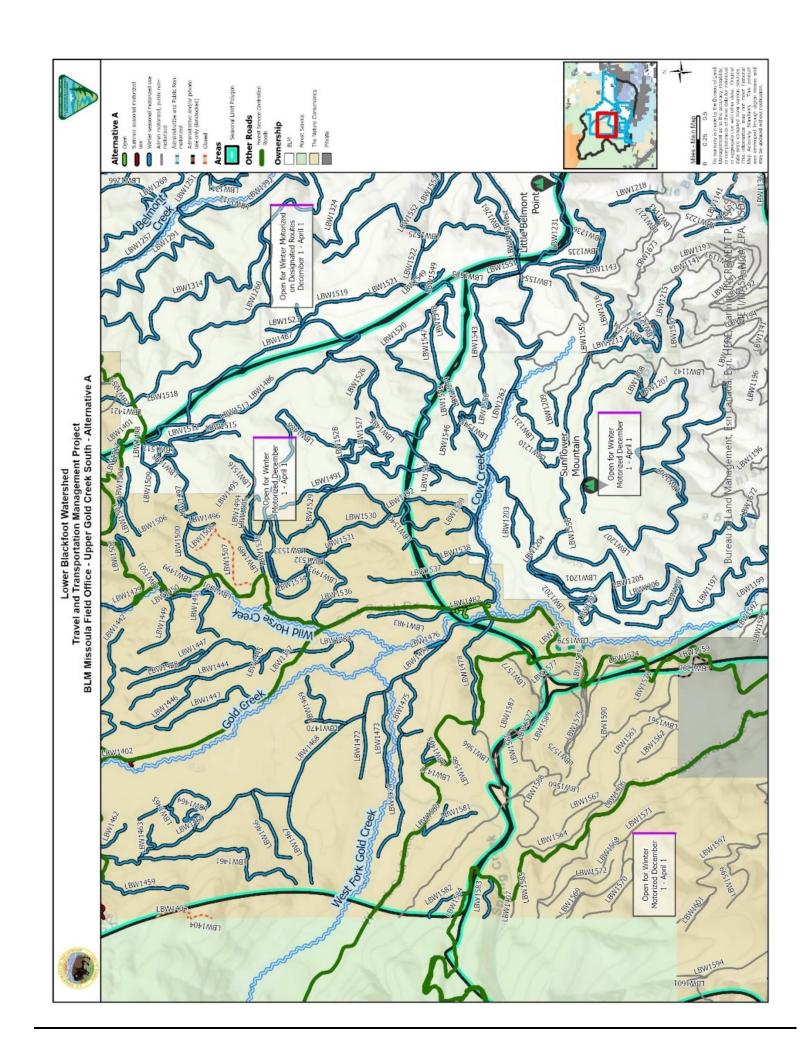
BLM and TNC are working together a series of restoration projects in the Upper Gold Creek area including stream restoration, culvert upgrades, and native plant restoration. Themes for this area include:

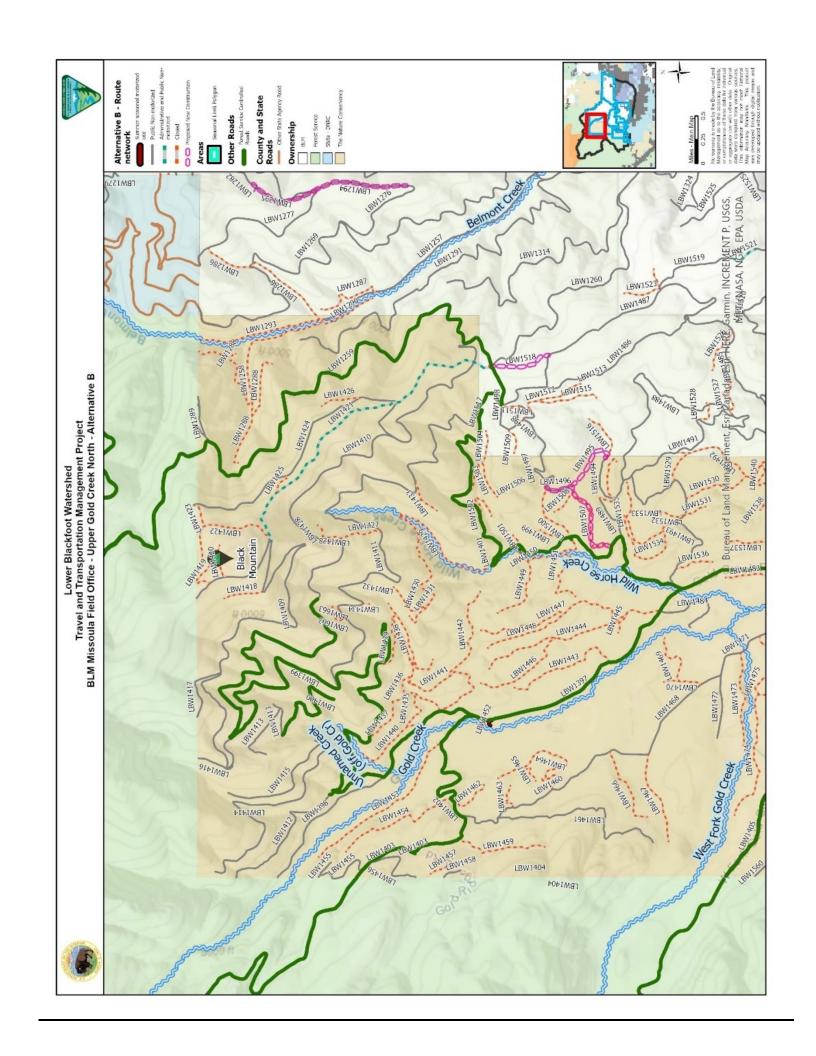
- Maintaining recreation access to notable locations and through-routes for summer and winter recreation
- Improving recreation access points to reduce resource impacts such as route proliferation, invasive weed spread, and impacts to wildlife security.
- Identify opportunities to re-route roads to restore flood plain connectivity and aquatic habitat
- Manage for important cultural resource values including key plant populations and important sites.

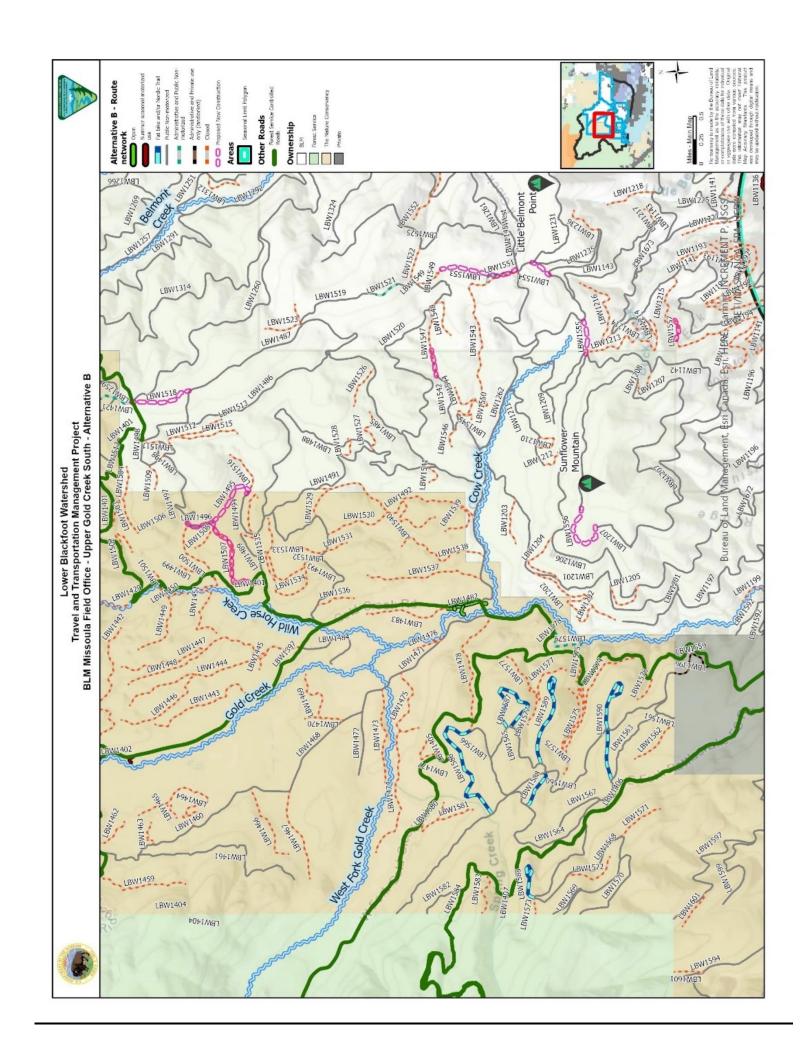
| Alternative | A | В | С | D |
|--|-------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Description | The existing condition. | A habitat security and aquatic quality focused option. | A compromise between alternatives B and D. | Creates the most motorized access. |
| | Miles of Road | | | |
| Open | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Summer and Winter Seasonal Motorized Use | 12 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Summer Seasonal Motorized Use Only | | | 3 | 0 |
| Winter Seasonal Motorized Use Only | 87 | 4 | 0.5 | 4 |
| Winter Nonmotorized Uses Only | - | - | 4 | 4 |
| E-bike and non motorized | - | - | - | - |
| Administrative Motorized Access Only | 35 | 62 | 91 | 87 |
| Close to all Motorized (Roads Stored or Decommissioned) | 1 | 50 | 19 | 14 |
| New Construction Reroutes | | 0.2 | 1 | 1 |
| Undesignated (Forest Service and/or new construction routes) | 6 | 30 | 27 | 27 |

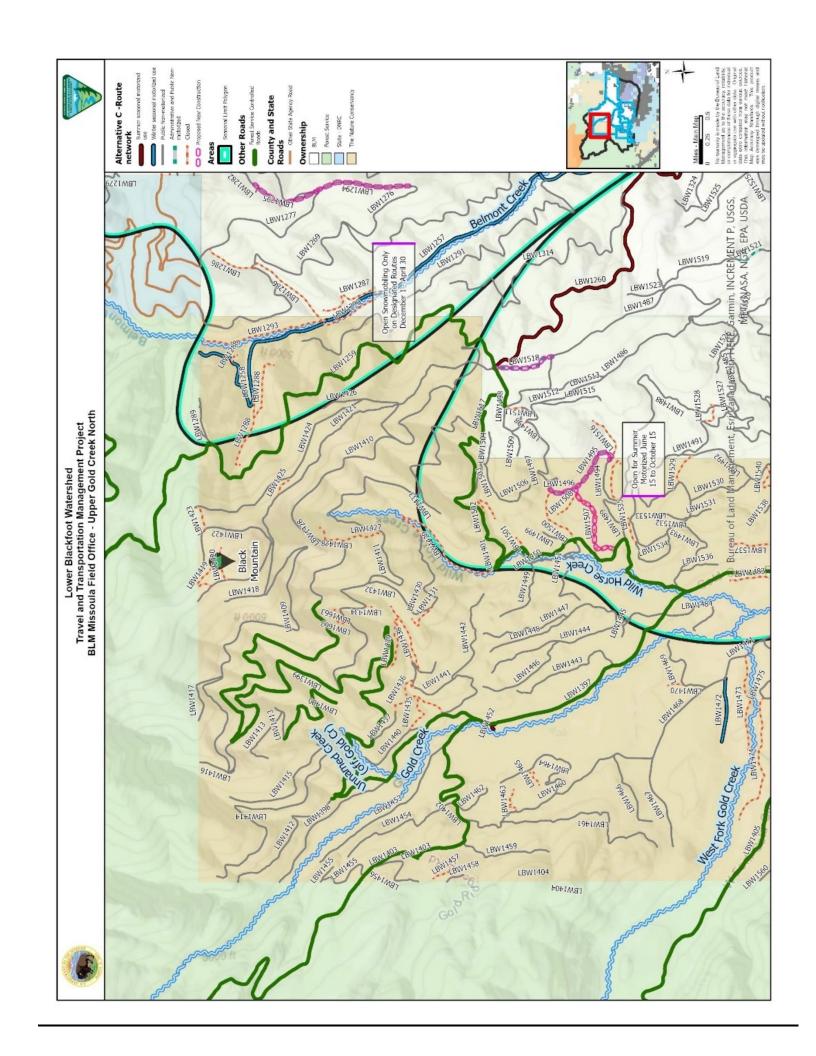
All areas are open to walk-in and non-motorized uses across all alternatives.

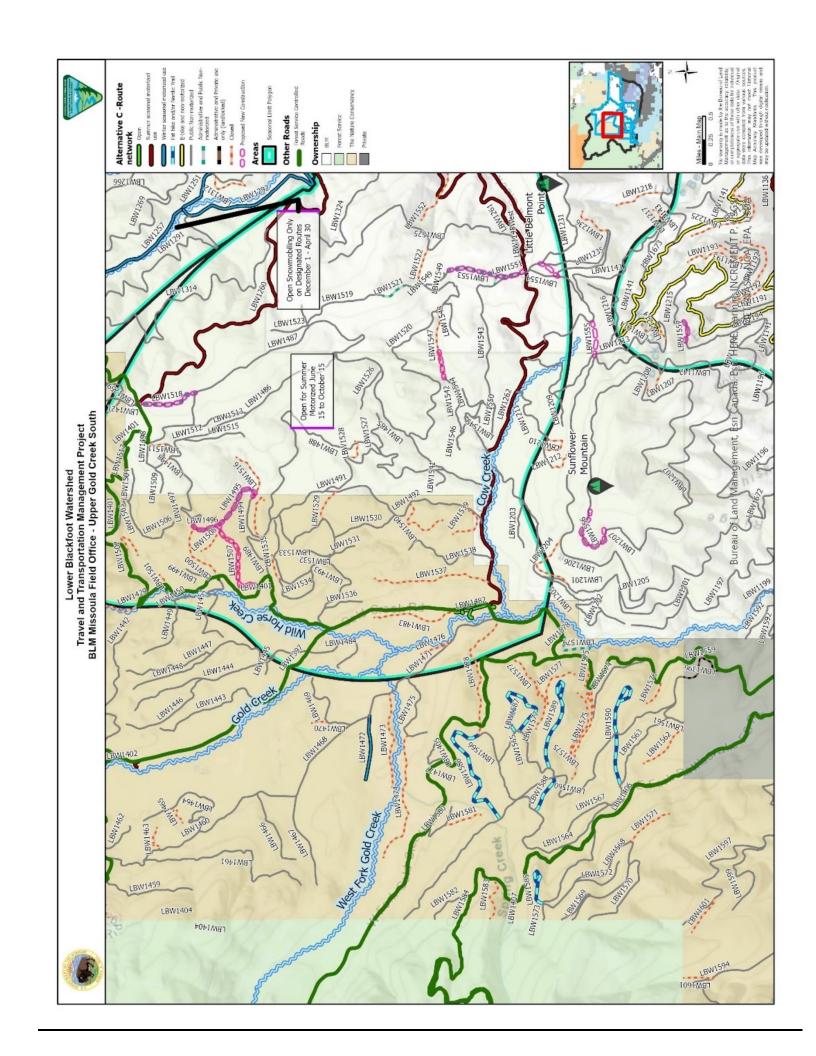


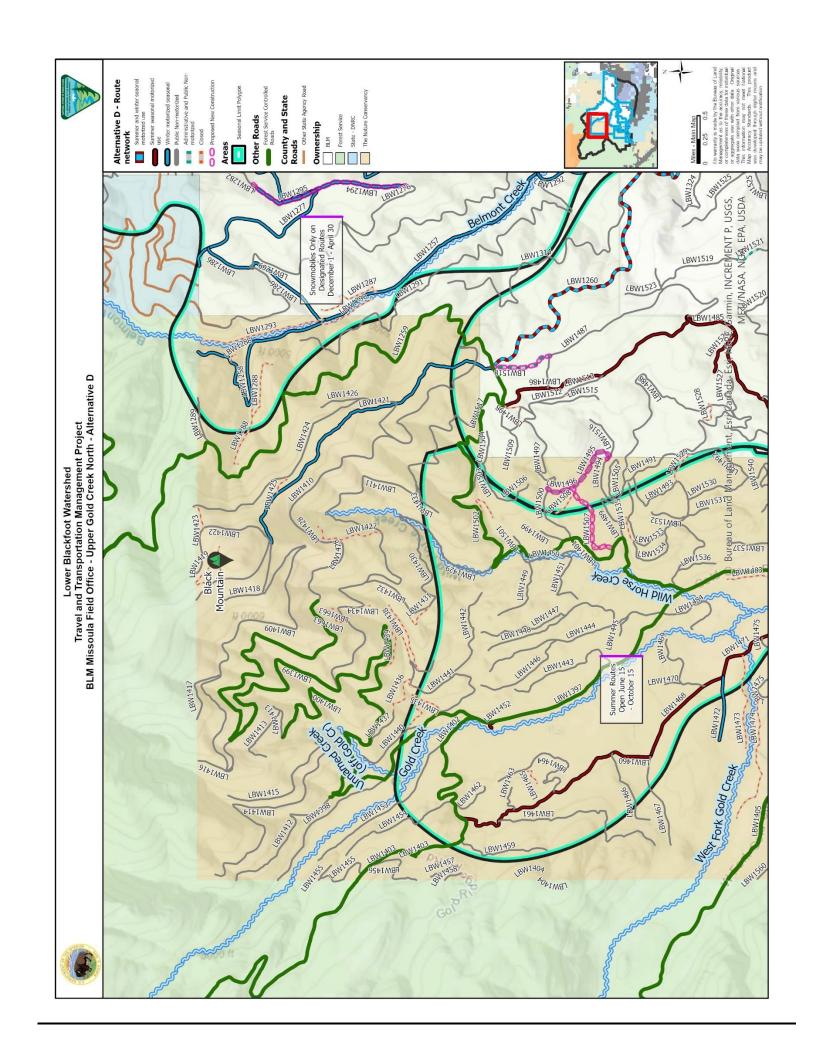


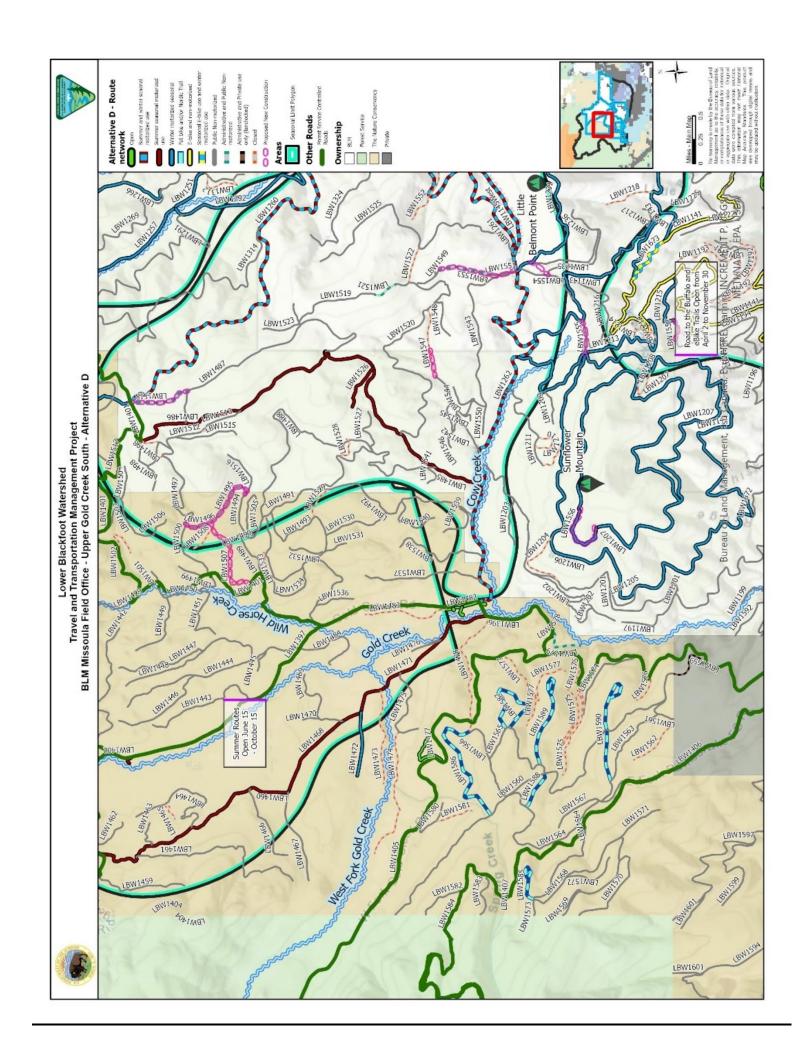












Lower Gold Creek and Twin Creeks

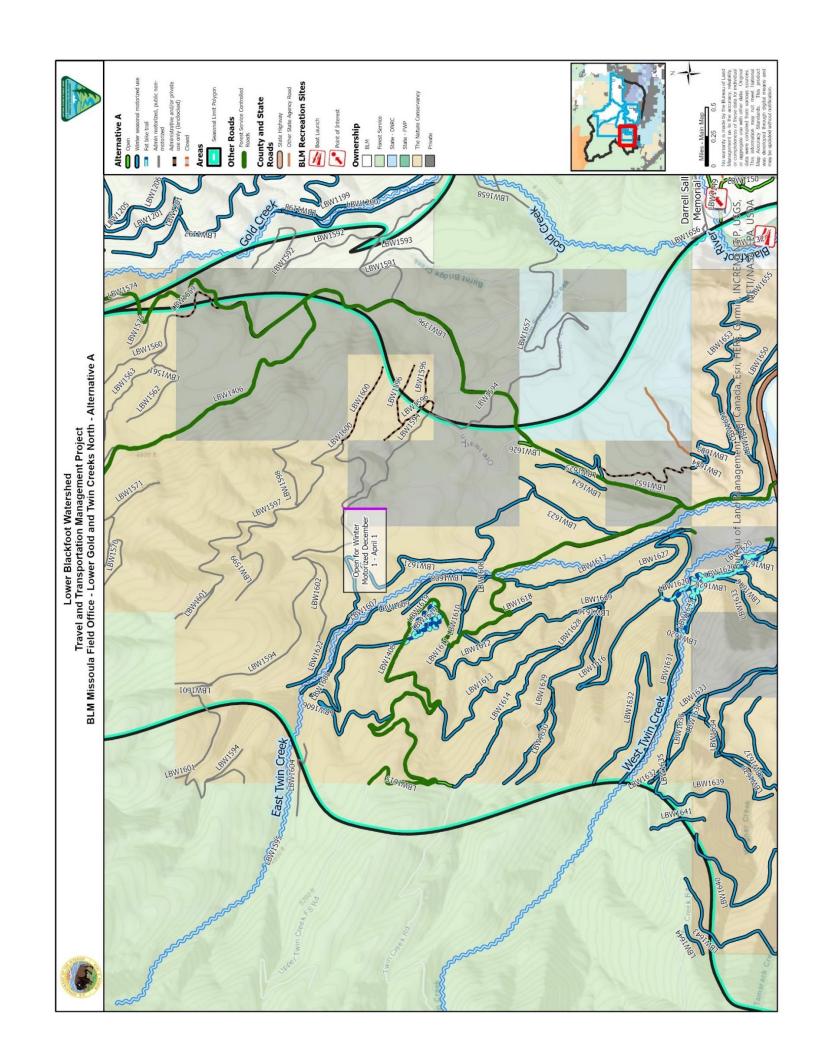
The Lower Gold Creek and Twin Creek area is notable for the more checker-boarded landownership patterns present in this area, with several private land parcels intermixed with public lands. The majority of the access routes through this area are managed by the US Forest Service and BLM will work closely with the Forest Service on road maintenance and travel planning within these areas in the future. The BLM does not intend to change Forest Service access and travel management with this project.

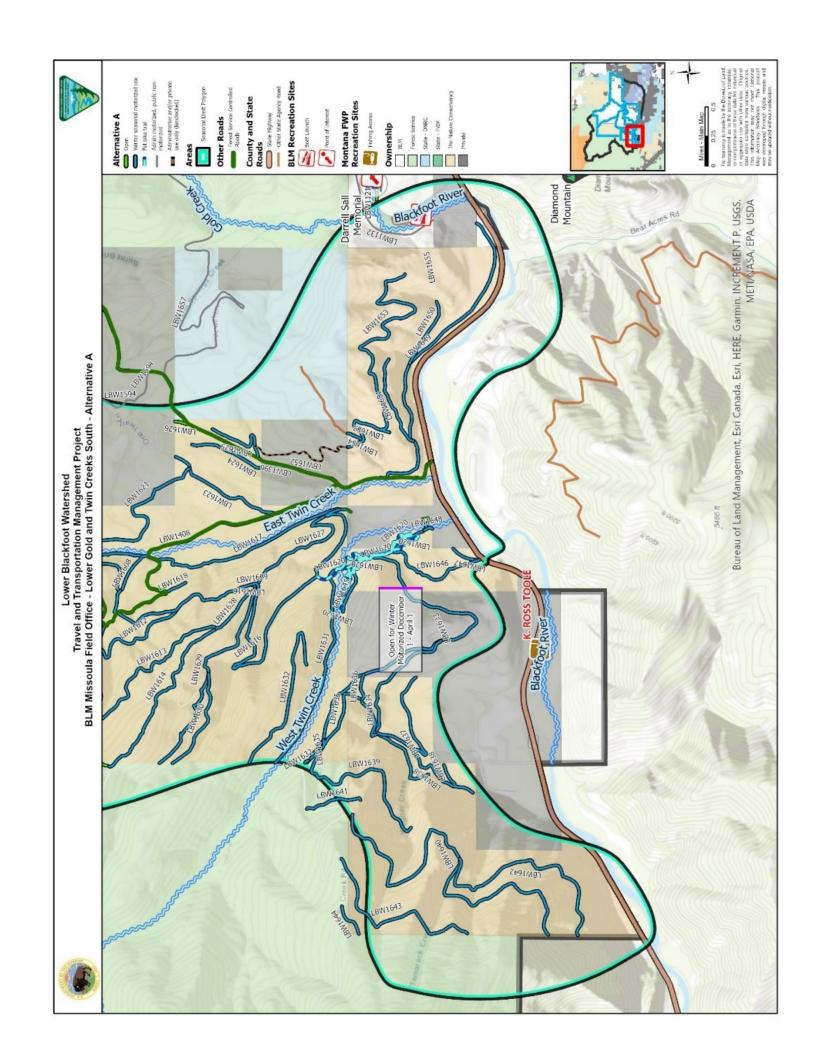
Themes for this area include:

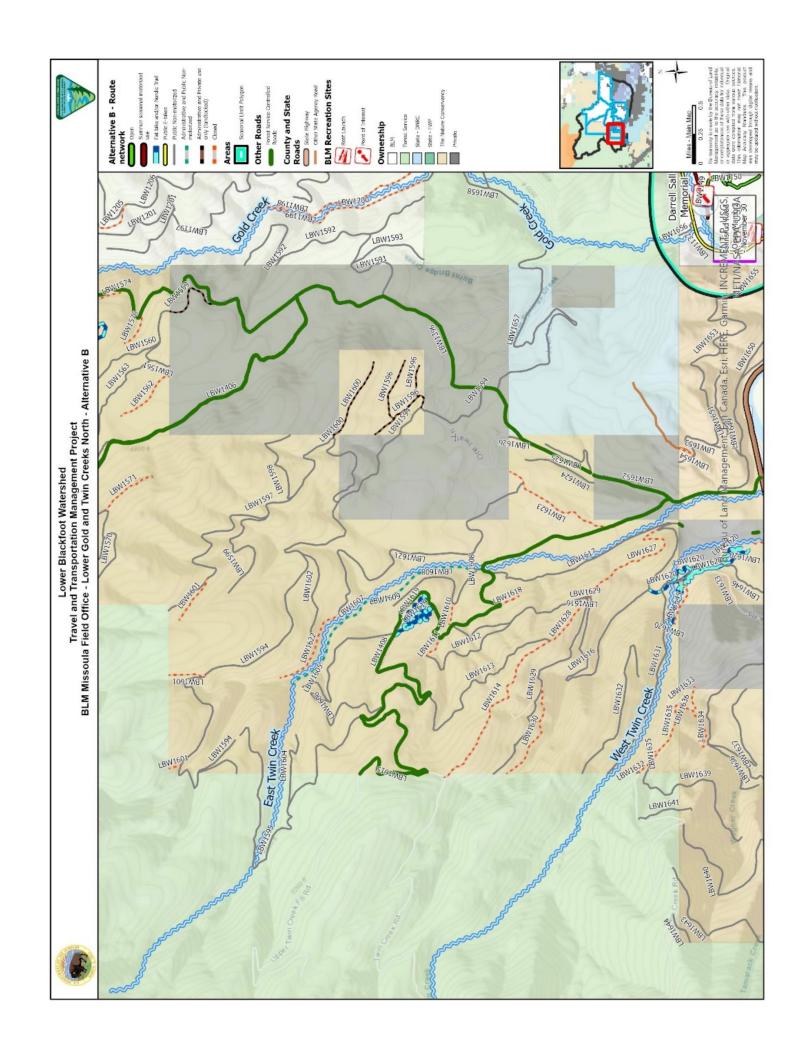
- Maintaining public access and recreation opportunities while being good neighbors for private property owners
- Improving recreation access points to reduce resource impacts such as route proliferation, invasive weed spread, and impacts to wildlife security. This can be accomplished with site delineation and better signs.
- Providing continued administrative access for forest health restoration treatments in areas adjacent to private lands in the wildland urban interface.

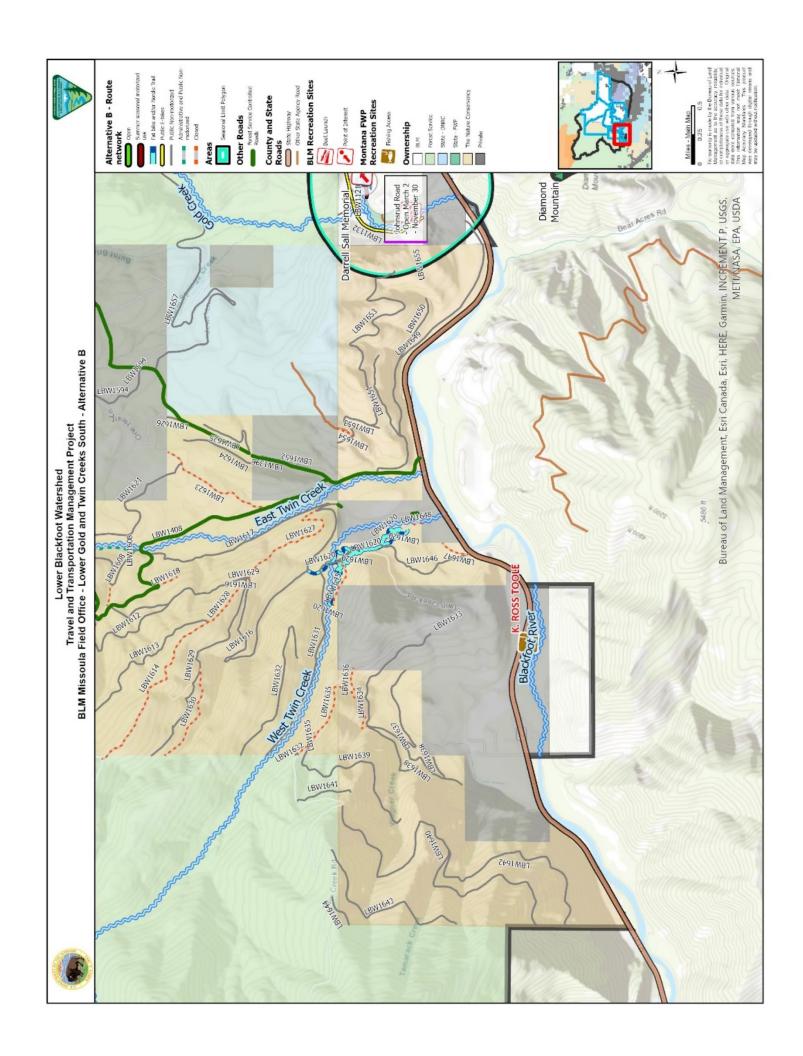
| Alternative | A | В | C | D |
|--|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| Description | The existing condition. | A habitat security and aquatic quality focused option. | A compromise between alternatives B and D. | Creates the most motorized access. |
| | Miles of Road | | | |
| Open | 6 | 0.5 | 1 | 1 |
| Summer and Winter Seasonal Motorized Use | - | - | - | - |
| Summer Seasonal Motorized Use Only | - | - | 2 | 4 |
| Winter Seasonal Motorized Use Only | 38 | - | 1 | 11 |
| Winter Nonmotorized Uses Only | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| E-bike and non motorized | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| Administrative Motorized Access Only | 11 | 41 | 41 | 28 |
| Close to all Motorized (Roads Stored or Decommissioned) | - | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| New Construction Reroutes | - | - | - | - |
| Undesignated (Forest Service and/or new construction routes) | 2 | 8 | 7 | 7 |

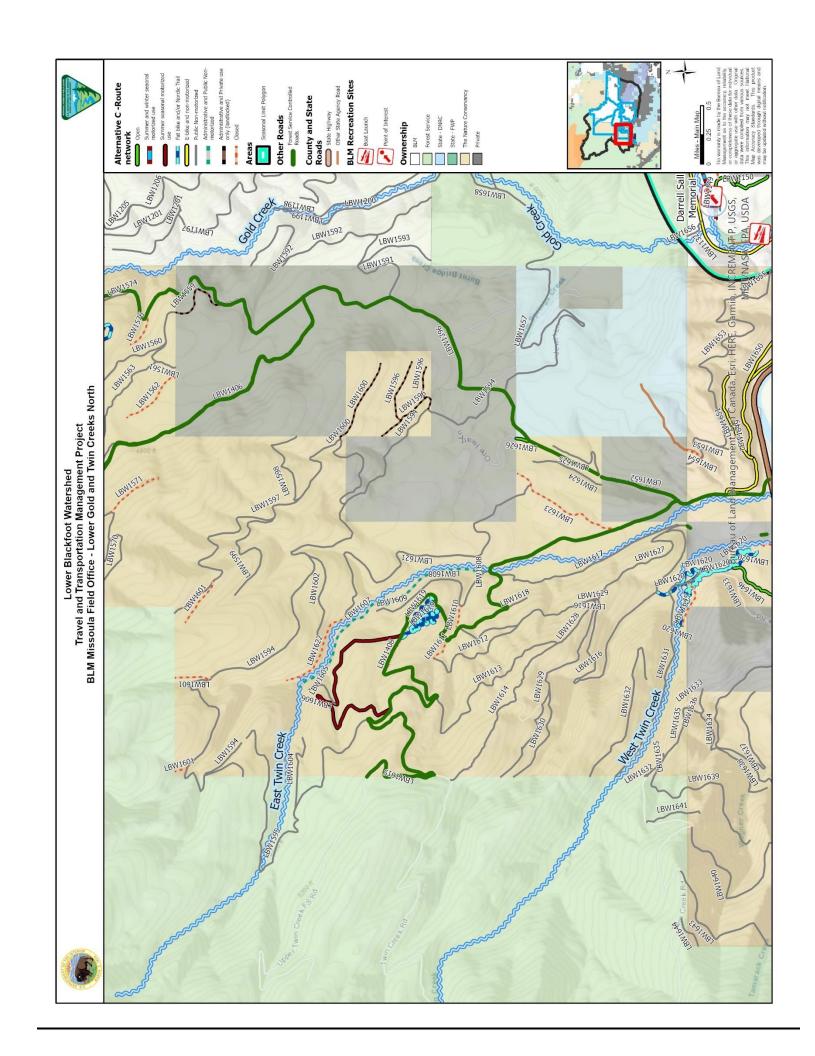
All areas are open to walk-in and non-motorized uses across all alternatives.

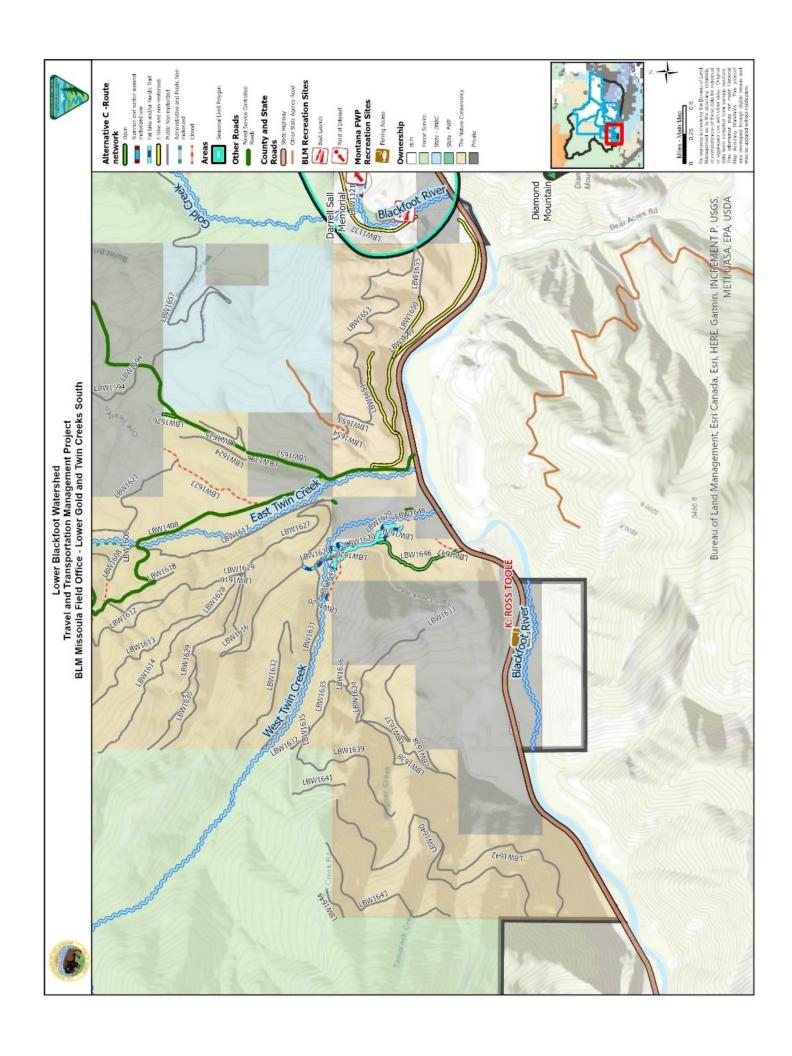


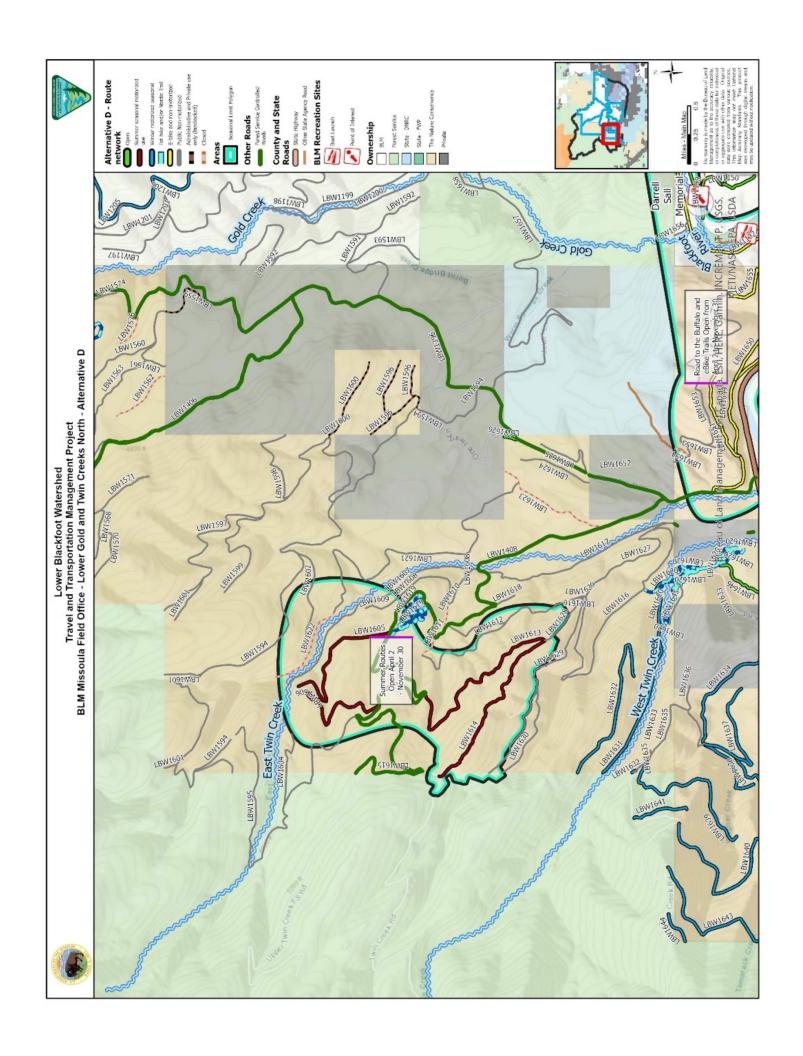


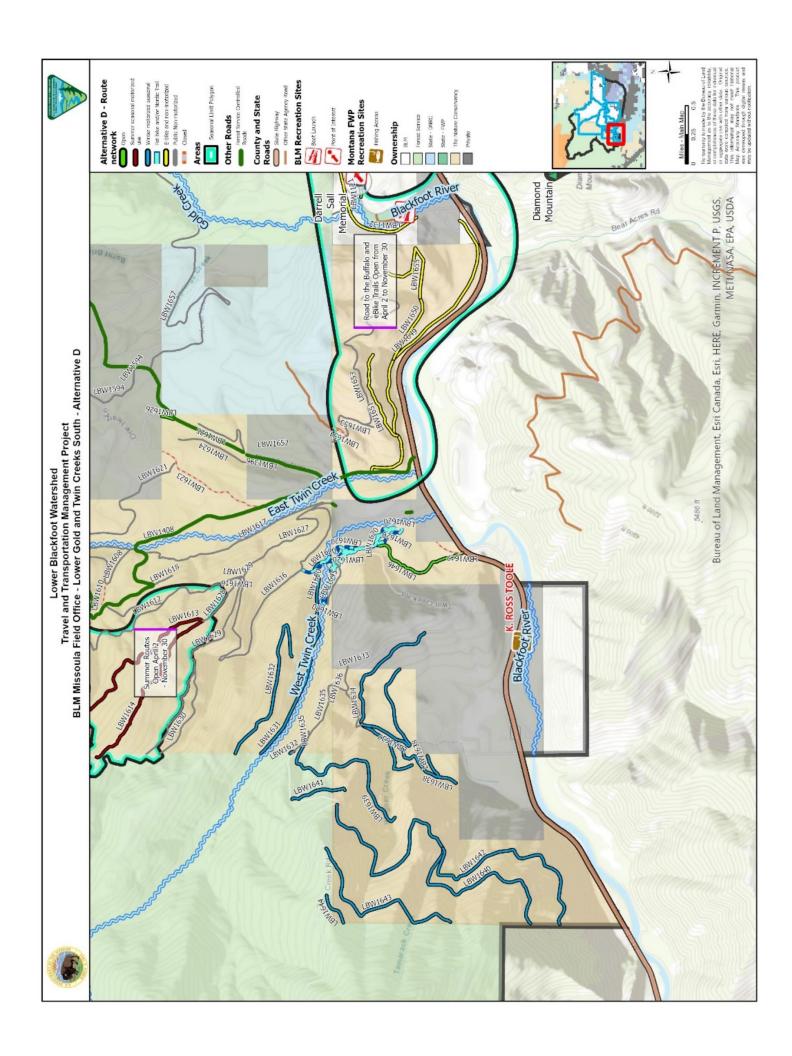












Complete Project Summary

Across the entire project planning area, the miles of each travel use designation are summarized below.

| Alternative | A | В | C | D |
|--|-------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Description | The existing condition. | A habitat security and aquatic quality focused option. | A compromise between alternatives B and D. | Creates the most motorized access. |
| | | Miles | of Road | |
| Open | 33 | 4 | 6 | 22 |
| Summer and Winter Seasonal Motorized Use | 12 | 0 | 11 | 55 |
| Summer Seasonal Motorized Use Only | 0 | 14 | 48 | 41 |
| Winter Seasonal Motorized Use Only | 454 | 6 | 62 | 159 |
| Winter Nonmotorized Uses Only | 4 | 4 | 8 | 8 |
| E-bike and non motorized | 0 | 10 | 28 | 29 |
| Administrative Motorized Access Only | 187 | 453 | 410 | 280 |
| Close to all Motorized (Roads Stored or Decommissioned) | 4 | 167 | 87 | 67 |
| New Construction Reroutes | 0.0 | 1.6 | 3.8 | 4.0 |
| Undesignated (Forest Service and/or new construction routes) | 14 | 49 | 44 | 44 |
| Total Miles | 708 miles total | | | |

All areas are open to walk-in and non-motorized uses across all alternatives.

How to Stay Involved

As a reminder, BLM is very early in these planning efforts – the range of alternatives shown in this map book are designed based on previous public input on desired recreation and management uses; a proposed action will be refined from this range in fall 2024 after we incorporate public comments from this effort and complete environmental analysis for the project.

The BLM is inviting the public to comment on these alternatives until May 17th. Please provide detailed information specific to geographic areas, and if necessary, specific routes. Comments may be emailed to the project team lead, Claire Romanko, at the email address below.

Please send project comments to:

BLM MT MSO LBCTTMProject@BLM.GOV

Public comments during early project engagement on alternatives will be accepted through May17, 2024.