

How to Write an Effective Public Comment on the Lewistown RMP

- You don't have to be an expert, write a multi-page essay, or comment on the entirety of issues and landscapes. Write a few thoughtful sentences about the places and issues that are important to you.
- Avoid "copying and pasting" large sections of text from an organization's website or emails. Use our information as a starting point to craft your own sentences. "Copy-and-paste" comments are not particularly helpful to the agency.
- Be as specific as possible about the management you are supporting (e.g. "I support managing the Dovetail area for its wilderness values because...")
- Include things you want to see in the planning area and things you don't (e.g. "I want to see areas open to foot and stock use only because...")
- Mention specific places (e.g. "I particularly care about Square Butte and the Judith Mountains because...")
- Give reasons for your comments (e.g. "I want to see more areas protected in the planning area because wilderness is a valuable resource that protects wildlife and clean water.")
- Include your personal experiences or stories in your reasoning (e.g. "I have hunted in the Chain Buttes area. I got the biggest elk of my life there, and it was such an amazing experience. I can't wait to share that incredible wild place with my kids and teach them the importance of fair chase hunting and respecting the land.")
- Avoid blanket general statements (e.g. "I think everything should be wilderness") and instead, try to give the BLM specific, detailed thoughts, using the guidelines mentioned above.
- Remember that the BLM employees who read these comments are real people too. Be polite and avoid abusive or condescending language.
- Have a question? Need help? Not sure where to start? Reach out to Aubrey at abertram@wildmontana.org