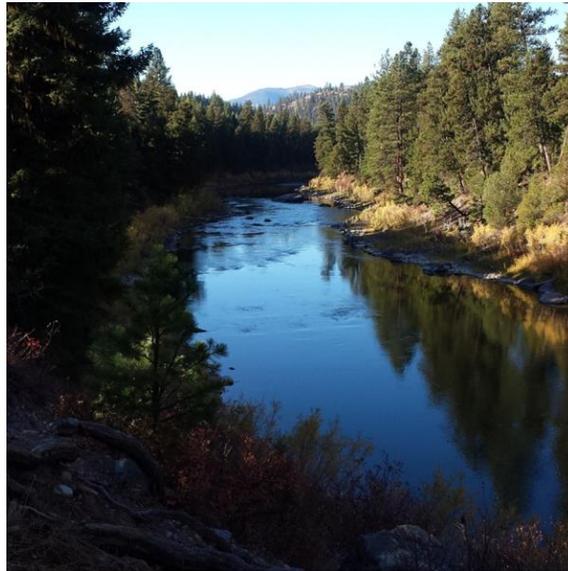


Outcome Focused Management Focus Group Report

Missoula, Montana

2017



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Executive Summary

In July 2017 members of the Public Lands Recreation Research Partnership (PLRRP) conducted a series of three focus groups (35 participants) regarding recreational outcomes and experiences on BLM managed lands in and around Missoula, Montana. A mixed methodology focus group was employed to establish the recreational experience baseline. Participants were asked a series of open-ended questions as well as survey-type questions (recorded on handouts provided) in a 90-minute discussion focusing on their relationship to these public lands, and their preferences for recreational settings, experiences, and outcomes related to these lands. The focus group script covered all the major elements needed in planning for recreation on public lands: preferences for outcomes and experiences, interests and expectations, setting characteristics, activities, and the services needed to support the recreation experience. Additional questions encouraged participants to express their preferences for management practices including the BLM's engagement with the public during its planning process. This methodology captured both a complete set of responses from each participant using the handouts with maps as well as a rich set of notes documenting the group dialog that provides both context and depth to the handout responses to set questions. The individual responses to the survey type questions and the mapping are recorded in a series of figures throughout the report. The written responses to open-ended questions were coded by theme and summary tables of the results are included in the latter half of the report. Participants were asked to identify specific areas of BLM lands in the Missoula area to give more detail and specificity to their broad comments. This approach (sometimes referred to as Human Ecology Mapping) makes the comments and expectations of the participants more helpful for land managers who must apply them to particular locations. An example of the handout and all questions asked is found in Appendix 1, a list of the themes captured on flip charts during the meetings is found in Appendix 2, and a complete list of all written comments (sorted by question) is found in Appendix 3. Although the report attempts to summarize all of this information, the reader is encouraged to consult these appendices to better understand the nuances of the comments that are not completely captured by brief theme descriptions in the report.

The majority of participants in the focus groups came from communities within 50 miles of Missoula such as Seeley Lake, Bonner, Clinton, and Stevensville. They highlighted the scenic beauty, recreational opportunities, and close proximity of these lands to their communities as vitally important characteristics of the landscape that greatly enhanced their quality of life and the character of their communities. The participants were concerned about access to these landscapes and the impacts of vandalism and development on the character and sustainability of the natural resources including wildlife, vegetation, soils, water, and visual resources. Typical of public lands across the west, these landscapes provide opportunities for a variety of

recreational activity, but land managers have the challenge of handling the conflict that often arises between user groups. The diversity of the population, culture, and the landscape are particularly prized by participants in this study. This makes it even more important that managers include a wide variety of stakeholders in the planning process and focus on transparent ways to communicate with the public and include them in partnerships for planning and management of the landscape. According to most of the participants, this is a natural landscape that should be managed for recreational opportunities, the protection of unique biological and physical qualities, and as a place to experience tranquil escapes and self-reliant adventures that enhance the quality of life for local residents and tourist visitors into the future. Summary conclusions, observations, and suggestions are presented at the end of the report.

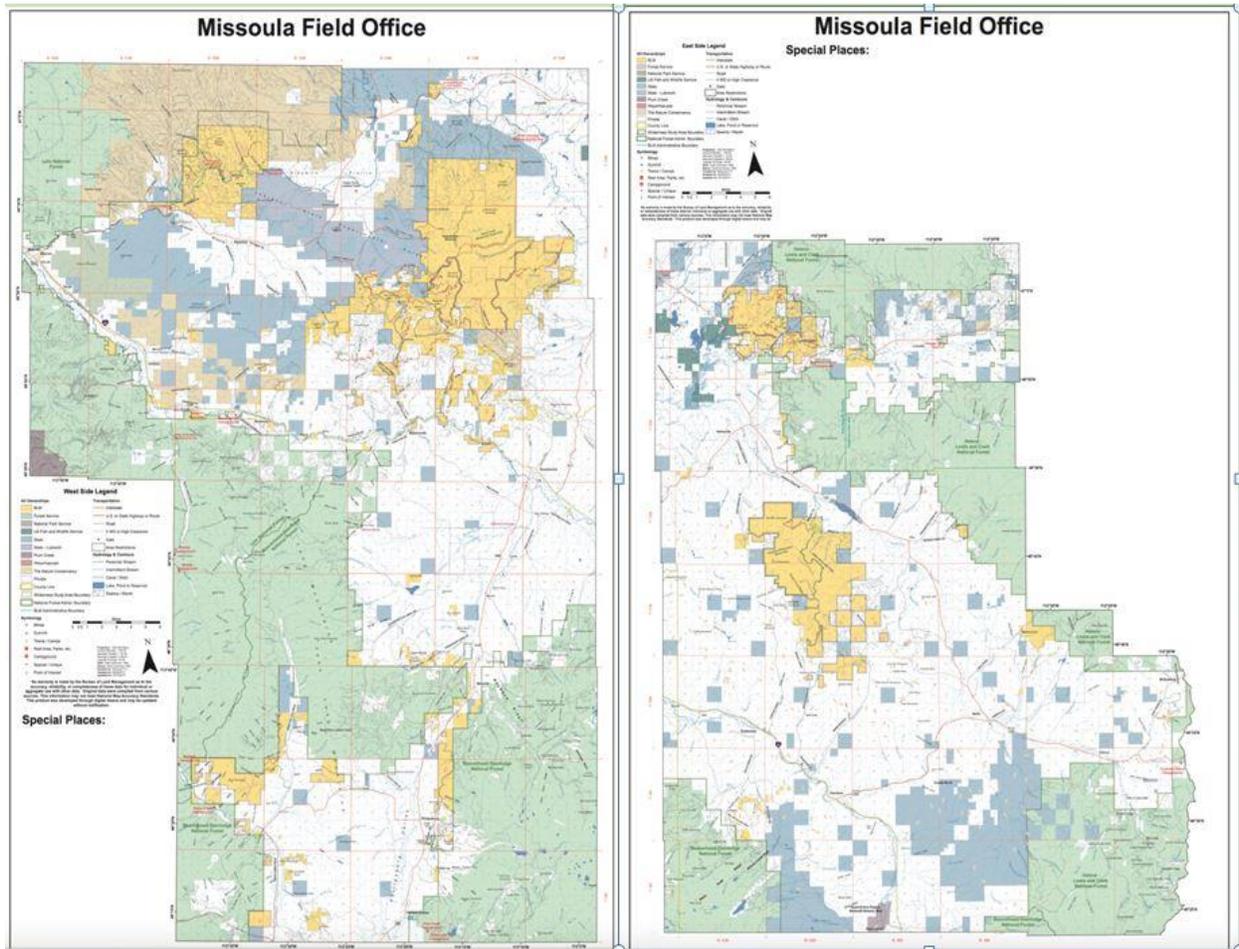
Full Report

Characteristics of BLM Lands in the Missoula Field Office Area

The area managed by the BLM Missoula Field Office (MFO) is located in the western part of Montana in Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli and Sanders counties. It comprises approximately 156,000 acres of surface lands and 268,660 acres of BLM-administered Federal minerals.

The need of the BLM Missoula Field Office to develop a recreational experience baseline coincided with the need for a pilot project for a larger Outcome Focused Management Data project. The national consortium of researchers from University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Colorado Mesa University, and Arizona State University were brought in to conduct the study. Researchers and student surveyors from the local university, the University of Montana, were also engaged in the data collection part of the project (detailed in a separate report).

Figure 1. Map of BLM Missoula Field Office area



Methodology

A mixed methodology focus group was employed to establish the recreational experience baseline. The mixed methodology focus group used audience handouts to record individual responses anonymously in addition to engaging participants in open dialogue. This methodology captured both a complete set of responses from each participant using the handouts with maps as well as a rich set of notes documenting the group dialog that provides both context and depth to the handout responses to set questions. Either approach used alone could leave an incomplete picture of the broad and deep relationships people have with this landscape, so the mixed methodology is the preferred approach to capture as much input as possible.

The design of the focus group script (for data collection purposes) entailed a structured series of discussion questions intended to engage participants in open dialogue about their preferences, interests, and expectations so responses could be captured in their own words.

These open-ended questions were often followed by a list of choices that represented a spectrum of possible responses to the discussion questions. Participants could respond via anonymous handouts given to every participant and collected at the end of the focus group so their responses could be recorded for a larger database. The open dialogue comments were documented with audio recording equipment as well as by consortium researchers taking notes on flipcharts.

The focus group script covered several of the major elements needed in planning for recreation on public lands: preferences for outcomes and experiences, interests and expectations, activities, and the services needed to support the recreation experience. Additional questions encouraged participants to express their preferences for management practices including the BLM's engagement with the public during its planning process. It included 16 questions, five were open-ended only, seven had prepared responses for audience polling recorded on the handouts, and two allowed for both polling and open-ended responses. All questions with prepared responses included an "other" option so participants were not constrained by the prepared responses. Of the open-ended questions, one included a mapping exercise where participants noted specific places on a series of two different maps corresponding to the east and west parts of the field office (See Appendix 1 for a copy of all questions on the handout including the maps). The number of questions included in the script was tailored to allow for a 90-minute focus group session.

A total of three focus groups were conducted in the summer of 2017. The focus groups were held in Missoula, Seeley Lake and the Lubrecht (See Table 1). There were a total of 35 participants⁴ in the three focus groups. The participants were allowed to remain anonymous, but their responses were tracked and collated by the use of the handouts they filled out and turned in. Their participation in the study and on every question was voluntary and they were reminded that they were free to participate or not as they wished, but that if they did speak up or write something down, that was taken as their consent to participate in the study. Some basic demographic information was collected at the beginning of each session. The participant responses to zip code indicated that most of the participants live within 50 miles of Missoula. Forty-six percent live in Missoula, 17% in Seeley Lake, 9% in Philipsburg, 6% each in Helena and Bonner, and 3% each in Clinton, Florence, Helmville, Lolo, Polson, and Stevensville. Table 1 indicates the dates, locations, and number of participants for each focus group.

⁴ There were 35 completed handout responses returned by participants and included in this study. There were a few additional participants at some of the focus groups that did not complete any of the handout responses, so they are not counted in this study. The numbers in Table 1 reflect the number of participants who filled out the handouts and are included in the study.

Table 1. Focus groups, dates, and locations

Focus Group #	Date	Location	Group	Number of Participants
1	7/14/17	Missoula, MT	General Public	22
2	7/14/17	Seeley Lake, MT	General Public	10
3	7/15/17	Lubrecht Forest Center	General Public	3

Outreach to populate the focus groups included:

- Direct outreach to partners and key stakeholders (local activity oriented groups such as 4x4 clubs, hiking clubs, biking clubs, cooperating agencies, local government entities, and local stewardship/conservation groups, etc.),
- Press releases in local newspapers
- Flyers – put up at community centers, bike and outdoor shops, running gear stores, etc.

The technique of audience polling (with data gathered by handout) to record responses allows each participant the opportunity to weigh in on every area of the research. This is important to avoid a wide variety of social setting dynamics that arise in traditional focus group settings, such as only hearing from extroverted participants who dominate a conversation. The polling also minimizes the undue influence of peer settings in small communities. If an individual is worried about the repercussions of their responses mentioned aloud in a focus group within their community, they are not likely to respond, or not as accurately. However, if they can anonymously record their preferences, they may feel more liberated to express their true opinion. Audience polling using written responses on handouts preserves participants' anonymity and maintains the ability to link all of their answers together for the purposes of analysis. In traditional focus groups, one might be able to link comments and preferences back to a particular focus group, but unless the group was small and homogenous, it would be difficult to determine preferences of individuals regarding a particular variable, or how those preferences might interact with other preferences (i.e. if a person is seeking solitude, do they choose particular activities or settings to achieve that outcome?). Traditionally, a survey was needed to link these variables; however, a survey often misses the nuances of the dialogue. The advantage of using audience polling and open-ended questions in a focus group setting is that participants are allowed to clarify what they mean when they select certain responses. (Several of those connections are made and displayed in Appendix 4). One of the values of a mixed methodology study (survey and focus groups combined) to establish a recreational

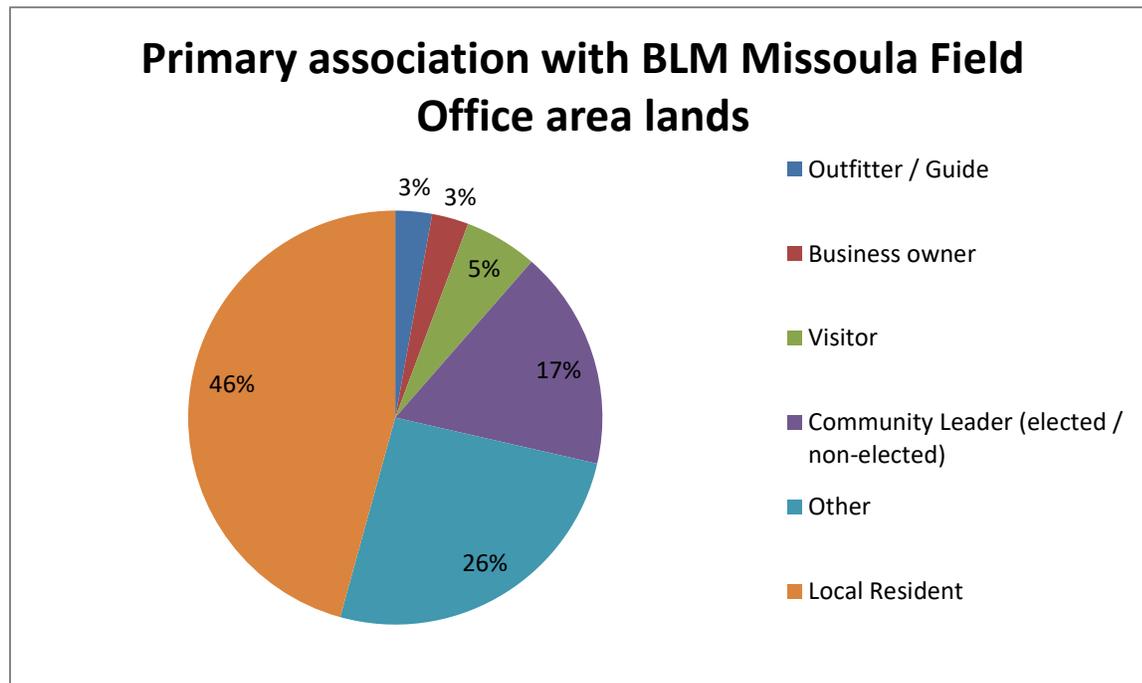
baseline is the mix of local voices and those of visitors. Both are invaluable for successful public lands planning and management. Each method (surveys and focus groups) highlights a different demographic (locals and visitors), so combining the data offers a richer and more complete picture of public preferences for recreational management of lands in the BLM Missoula Field Office.

It is important to note the limitations of using this data. Because the sampling of participants was not random, it would be difficult to suggest this analysis is generalizable to the preferences of the entire population that might be interested in the area. This study does not attempt to do this here. However, effort was made to hear from a broad sample of groups who have a connection to the landscape including both locals and visitors that were willing to spend 90 minutes participating in the conversation.

Demographics

A total of 35 individuals participated in one of the three focus groups that were conducted in the summer of 2017. They represented a broad spectrum of the Missoula and surrounding communities' population in terms of occupation and recreational interest.

Figure 2. Primary association of respondents with BLM Lands in the Missoula Field Office area

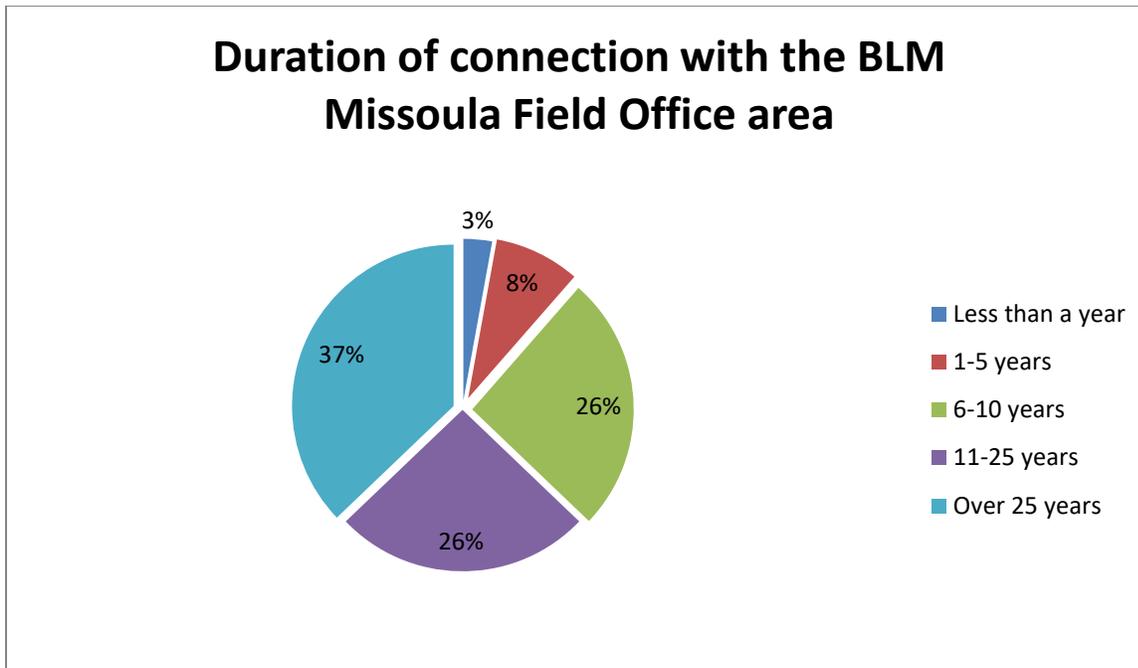


n=35. Responses written in "other" include "RAC Member. Outdoor Recreation (2 years)," "Trail Association Exec. Director – planner for bike trails," "Rancher – multi-generational land owner / resident," "Helena Resident. Ride Public Land! President – Capital Trail Vehicle Association! We ride everywhere available," "Visitor and Local Resident," "Recreationist," and "NGO."

Participants had many possible roles that they could assume/choose in the focus group (e.g. a participant may be a local resident, a visitor, and local business owner at the same time). They were, however, asked to assume only one primary role for the focus group and Figure 2 exhibits the primary roles the participants chose across all three focus groups. The largest set of the participants (46%) identified their primary affiliation as local resident. The next largest category was “other” (26% - responses recorded below Figure 2). The third most common response to affiliation was community leader (17%). Participants also identified as visitors (5%), business owners (3%), and outfitters/guides (3%) as their primary affiliation. The overwhelming majority of these were local residents adding some role in the community such as rancher, volunteer for an outdoor oriented non-profit organization (for example), or a leader in those organizations. Business owners comprised 3% of the focus group participants. An analysis of the zip code responses confirms all participants were Montana residents of communities near or within the field office area. This indicates that the focus group gives a really good picture of the concerns of the local communities regarding these lands, but surveys are needed to capture the interests and expectations of visitors from beyond the local communities. A survey was conducted by researchers from the PLRRP Consortium in this same area to compliment this focus group report⁵. These two reports are designed to work in tandem to provide land managers a rich description of the outcomes and benefits gained by visitors and local community members as a result of recreation in the lands managed by the BLM Missoula Field Office.

⁵ Fix, P. J., Virden, R. J., Casey, T. T., Covelli-Metcalf, E. & Garcia, R. (2017). Blackfoot and Marcum-Kershaw Mountains Block Management Areas OFM Study, Fall 2016. Project report for the BLM Missoula Field Office. BLM PLRRP Report #1. Fairbanks, Alaska: University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Natural Resources and Extension, Department of Natural Resources Management.

Figure 3. Duration of respondent connection to the BLM Missoula Field Office area with the primary association reported



n=35.

Participants were asked how long they had been connected with lands in the BLM Missoula Field Office area in order to determine the longevity of their understanding and connection to the place. Ninety-seven percent of the respondents indicated their association was longer than a year with the largest group (37%) indicating a very long relationship with the landscape (25 years or greater). Over half of the participants indicated at least a decade of familiarity and connection to the landscape. This long term connection with the landscape suggests a deep familiarity with the BLM Missoula Field Office area.

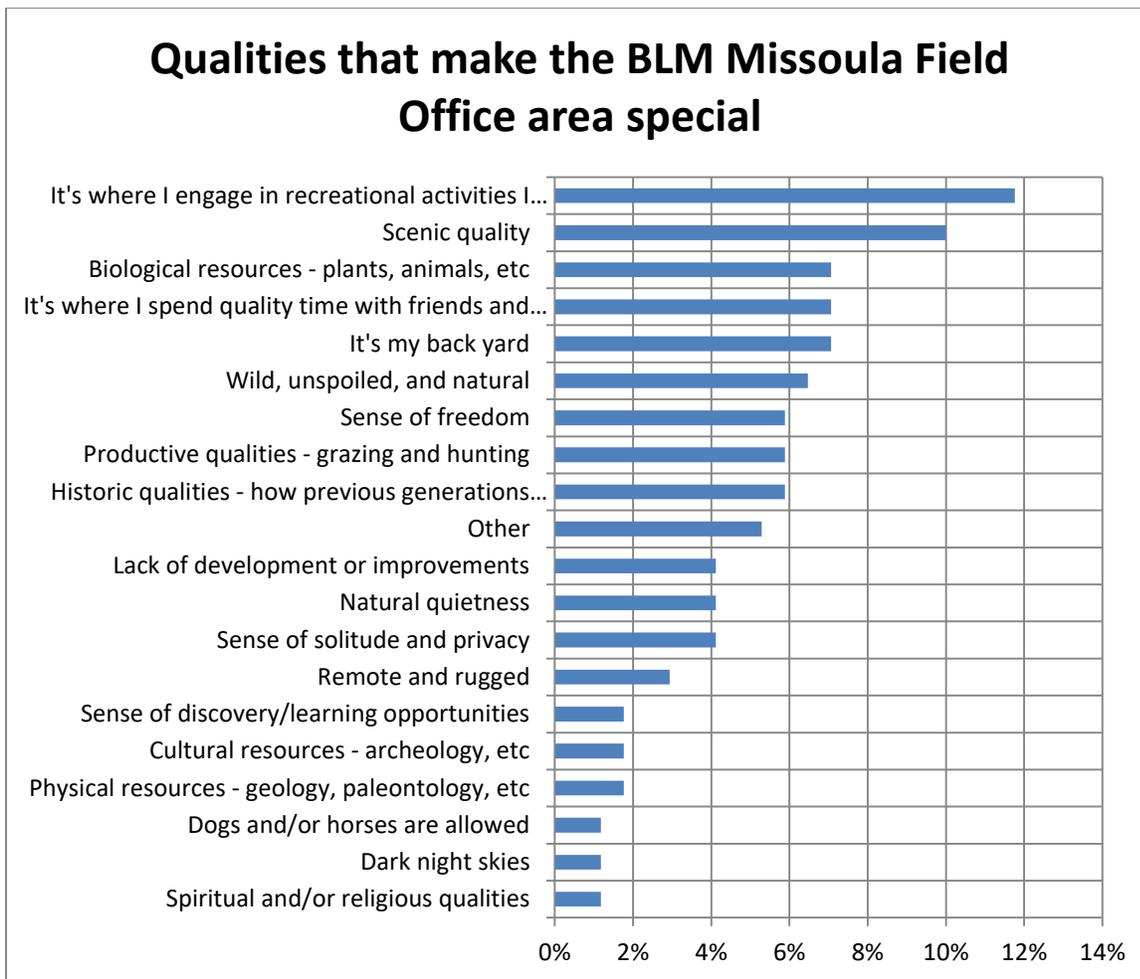
Most Special Place

Special Qualities of the BLM Missoula Field Office Area Lands

Initially, the participants of the focus groups were asked to talk about what makes the lands managed by the BLM Missoula Field Office “special” places in their mind. They were encouraged to be as specific as they wanted to be in terms of identifying actual locations in and around the field office, or they could speak more broadly about the BLM lands as a whole. They were asked first to put their response in their own words in order to capture themes that might emerge from their own experiences on the BLM lands managed by the BLM Missoula Field Office before they looked at the list of special qualities often associated with public lands in the handout question. Next, participants were given a list of 20 qualities that often are identified

as special characteristics of public lands according to past research. In each of the lists found in the handouts, the final option is always “other” which allows participants to identify in writing the qualities that are important to them, which are not reflected in the lists (their written responses to “other” are recorded in Appendix 3). In general, the selection of “other” made up less than 6% of the total selections on any question, indicating that the lists adequately represented the range of characteristics measured in the question. Figure 4 below shows the percentage of total responses for any given characteristic that makes the areas managed by the BLM Missoula Field Office special in the eyes of the participants. Participants were asked to focus their selections on the characteristics that really matter to them by limiting their choices to five or fewer responses. Most respondents followed these directions, but a few selected more than five. While the percentages presented in Figure 5 represent the total number of answers and not the percentage of participants selecting it, they do show the relative strength of response for each characteristic.

Figure 4. Qualities that make the BLM Missoula Field Office area special for respondents



Responses written in "other" include "connectivity to other wildlife habitats, corridors, areas of conservation," "BLM Lands are an integral component of regional land conservation commitments," "Beauty of river valley," "It's mine; I am part owner in public lands," "OHV Riding – open roads," "snowmobiling," "River recreation opportunities," "Motorized vehicle use," and "Economic equalizer – When the scale is tipped to commercial uses the economic equalizer of public land is LOST." The participants were asked to select up to five qualities, the percentages indicates the proportion of total answers the quality received, not the percentage of participants who selected the quality.

As the responses in Figure 4 indicate, among all participants the most popular response include: the opportunity to engage in their favorite recreational activity; scenic beauty of the landscape; biological resources (plants and animals); a place to spend quality time with family and friends; and a sense that it is "their backyard". Several participants indicated the areas are highly prized for their wild, unspoiled, and natural settings, they enjoy the sense of freedom they get when recreating there, and seek connections to historic uses such as hunting, fishing, grazing, and how past generations had used the landscape. The combination of these traits is a beautiful, rugged landscape close to gateway communities such as Missoula, Seeley Lake, and Philipsburg that provides opportunities to engage in a variety of recreational activities.

The written comments on the handouts and the summary comments from the flip charts used in the focus groups seem to agree with these trends and preferences. While the complete list of flip chart responses for each question can be found in Appendix 2, and a complete set of written handout comments can be found in Appendix 3, the following discussion is intended to summarize the main points of these written responses.

Participants offering written comments on why the BLM Missoula Field Office lands are special to them suggested several qualities that matter most to them. The largest number of individual comments indicated that these lands are special because they offer opportunities for recreational activities and easy access to public lands. Several comments also built upon the access theme by indicating the value they place on the regional connectivity between various public lands. Another popular theme in the written comments was the biological resources (flora and fauna) found there. Other themes receiving a number of comments included the opportunities available on these public lands, the scenic quality of the area, as well as the historic and productive qualities (how people have used these lands in the past and the opportunity to hunt, fish and ranch in the area). Several comments were recorded regarding the lack of development of these lands in the area. The themes in Table 2 below indicate the most frequently cited reasons for why the area is special to the focus group participants.

Table 2. Written comment themes for Q5 – “What are the qualities of the study area that make it special for you?”

Number of comments ⁶	Theme
18	Recreational Activity
15	Easy Access
14	Biological Resources - Plants and animals, etc.
9	Regional Connectivity
8	Scenic quality
8	Opportunities on “public” land
7	Historic Qualities - how previous generations used the area
7	Productive Qualities - grazing and hunting
7	Diversity of use opportunities / user groups
6	Physical Resources - Geology and paleontology, water, etc.
5	Wild, unspoiled, and natural
5	Lack of development or improvements

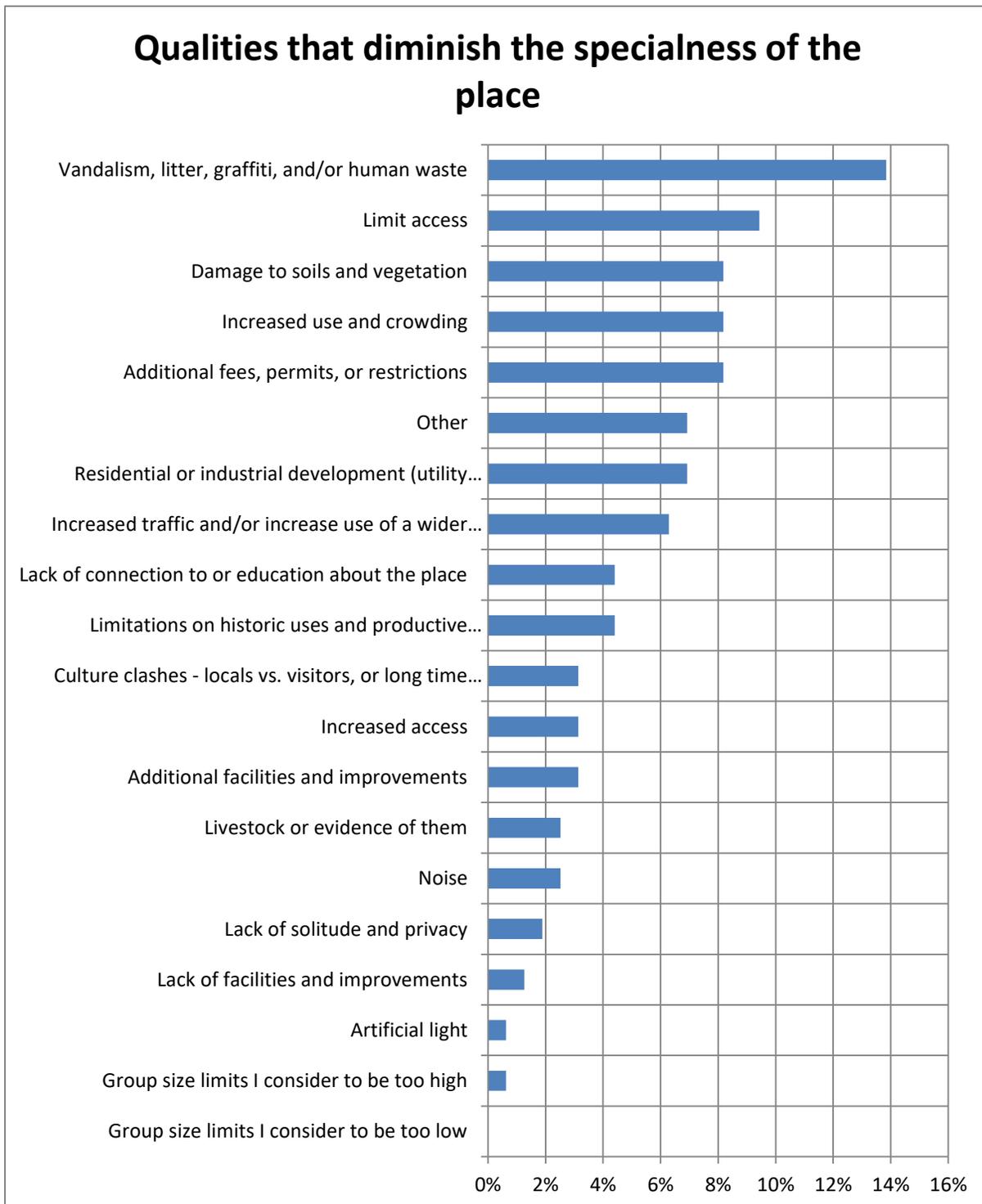
⁶ Some written comments on a particular handout would address several themes. For the purpose of sorting those comments by theme, those comments were counted in each theme they applied to. Thus the total number of counted comments will exceed the total number of overall comments listed in Appendix 3.

Qualities that Diminish the Specialness of the BLM Missoula Field Office Area Lands

Next, the participants were asked to talk about what might diminish the specialness of places managed by the BLM Missoula Field Office. They were encouraged to be as specific as they wanted to be in terms of identifying actual locations in the study area, or they could speak more broadly about the landscape as a whole. They were asked first to put their response in their own words in order to capture themes that might emerge from their own experiences in the field office area before they looked at the list of special qualities often associated with public lands in the handout question. Next, they were given a list of 20 qualities that often are identified as special characteristics of public lands according to past research. In each of the lists found in the handouts, the final option is always “other” which allows participants to identify in writing those qualities that are important to them, which are not reflected in the lists (their written responses of “other” are recorded in Appendix 3).

Figure 5 below shows the percentage of total responses for any given characteristic that could “diminish” the specialness of the BLM lands in the Missoula field office. Participants were asked to focus their selections on the characteristics that really matter to them by limiting their choices to five or fewer responses. Most respondents followed these directions, but a few selected more than five. While the percentages below represent the total number of answers and not the percentage of participants selecting it, they do show the relative strength of response for each characteristic.

Figure 5. Qualities that could or do diminish the specialness of the BLM Missoula Field Office area for respondents



Responses written in “other” include “restriction of motorized use,” “lack of airstrips – access to backcountry beyond roads,” “management by popular opinion vs. management by informed stewardship,” “trail construction w/o insight and collaboration w/ trail users,” “inability to mitigate resource damage! Erosion, wear,” “motorized activity,” “users not respectful of other types of use,” “poor signage. Inaccurate maps,” “people from out of state buying locking up land,” and “impacts of climate change on the landscape/resources.”

As the graph in Figure 5 indicates there is broad agreement among the participants that a significant threat to the specialness of all areas comes from “vandalism, litter, graffiti, and/or human waste,” and other damage to the resources, as well as from “limited access,” “crowding”, and “additional fees, permits, or restrictions” in the area. These are common concerns when an area becomes “loved to death” by increased visitor use, development, and the associated pressures these changes put on the resources.

When considering the written comments submitted on handouts regarding what might diminish the specialness of the place and experience, signs of additional management such as limiting access, increasing fees and restrictions, closed roads/gates and “the direction of current management” were most frequently cited as important qualities that diminish the experience of recreation on the landscape. Table 3 below identifies the most frequent written responses to the question of diminishing characteristics.

Table 3. Written comment themes for Q7 – “What could or does diminish the specialness for you?”

Number of Comments	Theme
18	Limited Access
12	Additional fees, permits, or restrictions
12	User conflict
12	Closed/gated roads
10	Direction of current management
9	Increased use and crowding
8	Resource Development
7	Vandalism, litter, graffiti, and/or human waste
7	Lack of Connection to place/lack of education about place / Lack of respect for land
7	Commercial Use
7	Motorized use

Based on the numbers in Table 3 above, there also seems to be some concern about how the landscape might be developed in the future. If that future includes increased crowding, commercial use or even motorized use, there is likely to be a backlash against these changes.

Interest and Expectations when Visiting BLM Missoula Field Office Area Lands

Research has indicated that people visit public lands to achieve a variety of beneficial outcomes and experiences for themselves, their communities, and the environment, while at the same time trying to avoid adverse outcomes and experiences. The frequency of themed comments is

listed below in Table 4. It is clear from this table that the ability to connect with natural landscapes and escape from the hectic pace of modern life are some of the most popular expectations for participants when they visit BLM managed lands in the Missoula Field Office area. They also seem to highly prize the aesthetic qualities of the landscape and the open spaces without crowds. Other values include the opportunities to recreate for personal fulfillment and healthy lifestyles.

Table 4. Written comment themes for Q9 – “When going to your area of interest, describe the interests and expectations you have for your time there? In other words, why do you go there and what do you hope to experience?”

Number of Comments	Theme
14	Natural landscapes
11	Tranquil escapes
11	Beauty / scenery / aesthetic value
10	Open space - no crowds
9	Natural History and Science
8	Personal enjoyment/fulfillment
7	Intrinsic value of landscape
7	Activity based
6	Health and Fitness
5	Self-reliant adventures
5	Surprise, Discovery
5	Access (easy or difficult)

Recreation Benefit Preferences for BLM Missoula Field Office Public Lands

Next, participants were asked to respond to a series of listed preferences by indicating which ones were most desirable to them. They were shown three different lists of 20 different benefits, each corresponding roughly to the categories of personal benefits, household benefits, and community benefits. Each participant was allowed to select up to three benefits from each list as a way of focusing on those they think are most important for their recreational experience on this area of public lands. The study of benefits that the individual or their community gains from recreation on public lands has become one of the principle ways that the BLM and other land agencies manage the landscape for outdoor recreation⁷.

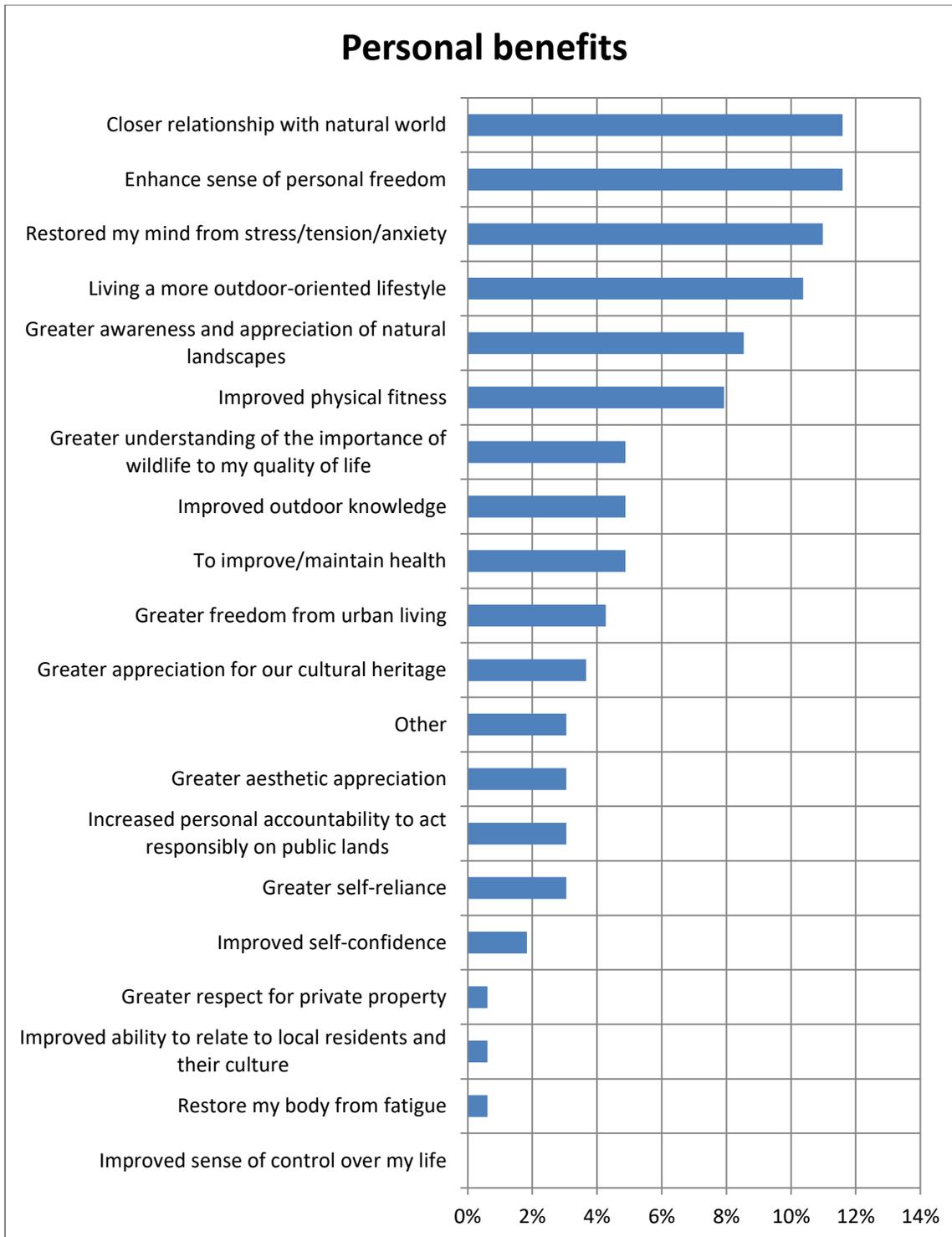
⁷ A sampling of the relevant laws, regulations, and guidelines regarding the role of benefits in planning for outdoor recreation would include: the [Federal Land Policy and Management Act](#) of 1976 (FLPMA) (43 U.S.C. 1701 et. seq.) which governs the overall management of public lands including recreation values (Sec. 102(a), 202, etc.); the [Outdoor Recreation Act](#) of 1963 (16 U.S.C. 4601-1) which promotes and coordinates the development of programs for outdoor recreation; the [Federal Lands Recreation and Enhancement Act](#) of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6804) which regulates recreation fees and allocation; as well as the [BLM Handbook 8320 – Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services \(Public\)](#) which went into effect 2011. This final document specifically highlights outcomes focused management (formally known as benefits based management) as the standard approach for BLM recreation planning.

The results of all responses to the list of benefits from personal to community are recorded below in Figures 6-8. The responses to these benefit preferences are disaggregated further based on how participants responded to the questions of affiliation with the landscape and longevity of that connection to the landscape. The results of these queries can be found in Appendix 4. When a participant selected the choice “other” on the lists as one of their most important benefits (5% on personal benefits, and 3% each on household and community benefits), they were prompted to write down what they meant by that selection. The responses are listed below the respective chart of responses.

In terms of personal benefits, the responses in Figure 6 indicate that participants receive a wide variety of personal benefits from recreating on BLM Missoula Field Office managed public lands. Although none of the benefits was selected by more than 13% of the participants, several were singled out as important to a wide group of participants. Several of the most popular benefits indicate a premium on the ability to connect with the natural world (“Closer relationship with natural world,” “Living a more outdoor-oriented lifestyle,” and “Greater awareness and appreciation of natural landscapes” –all had at least 8% of the participants identifying them). Being free from constraints (“Enhanced sense of personal freedom”) where participants can restore themselves mentally and physically (“Restore mind from stress/tension/anxiety,” “Improved physical fitness,” and “Improve/maintain health”) were also desirable personal benefits.

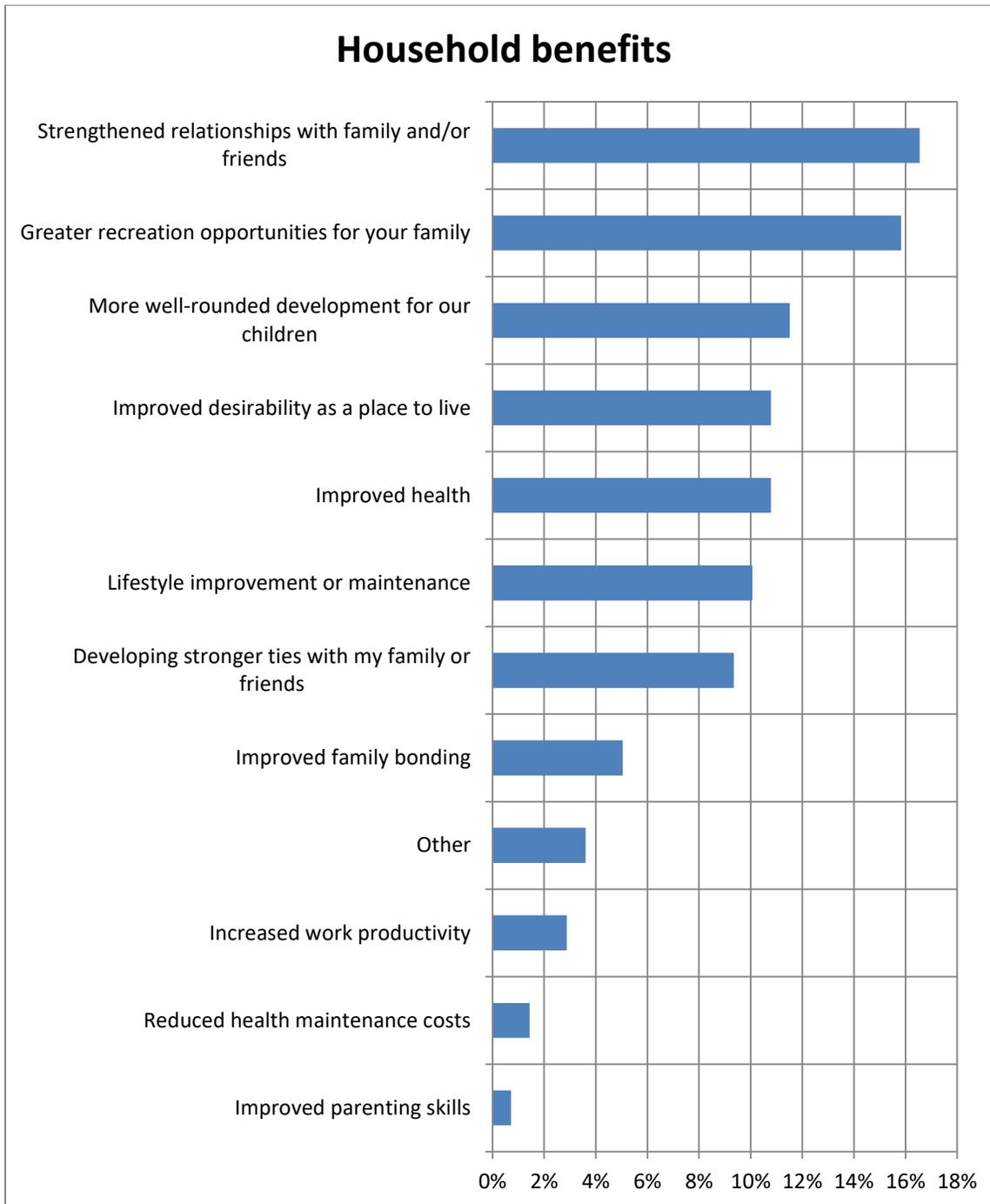
The benefits of recreating on public lands are not limited to the individual who happens to recreate there. They accrue for families of those engaged in recreation in the field office area. The three most common benefit preferences in the household benefits list (see Figure 7) are directly related to families (“Strengthening relationships with family and/or friends,” “Greater recreation opportunities for family,” and “More well-rounded development for the children”). Other popular choices for household benefits focus on quality of life issues (“Improved desirability as a place to live,” “Improved health,” and “Lifestyle improvement or maintenance” – all selected by 10% or more of the participants). In terms of community benefits (see Figure 8 below) the most popular selections identify a theme of cooperative management and protection of resources (“Increased awareness and protection of natural landscapes,” “Greater community ownership and stewardship of recreation and natural resources,” “Greater protection of fish, wildlife and plant habitat...,” and “Maintenance/preservation of distinctive public land recreation setting character”). Other popular responses indicate that outdoor recreation in public lands in the Missoula area contributes in important ways to the quality of life in those communities (“Heightened sense of community pride,” “Maintenance/preservation of distinctive community atmosphere”, etc.).

Figure 6. Personal benefits most important to respondents when visiting the BLM Missoula Field Office area



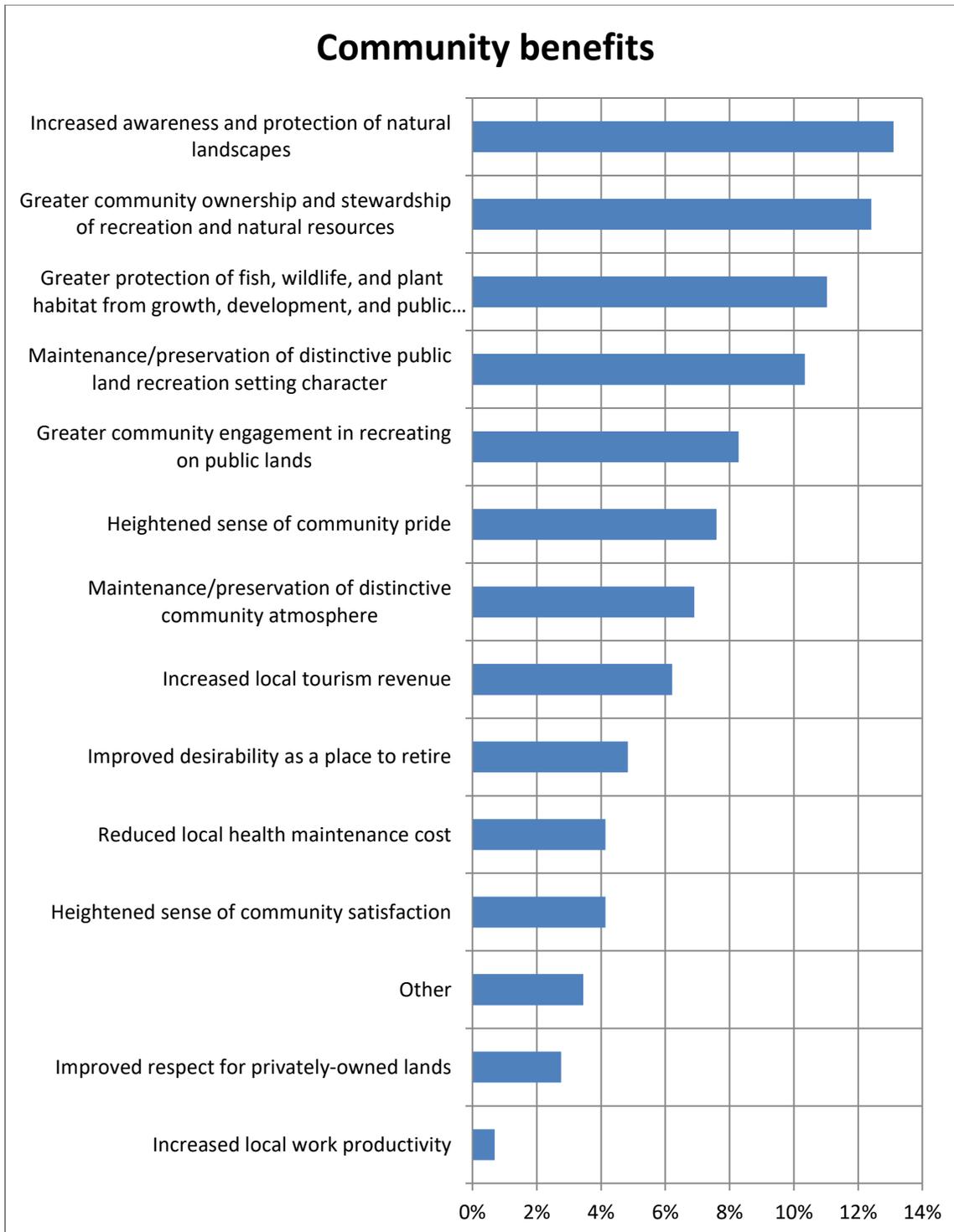
Responses written in “other” include “ability to get beyond the crowd”, “BLM ownership parcels can become cornerstones for private land conservation”, “dark skies”, “ability to enjoy use and help maintain!”, “providing my own meat (hunting) – developing a better understanding/experience of/with wildlife – habitat.”

Figure 7. Household and relational benefits most important to respondents when visiting the BLM Missoula Field Office area



Responses written in “other” include “appreciating private land owners,” “awareness and appreciation of natural resources. Increased self confidence in the outdoors,” “wildlife,” “snowmobile,” and “opportunity to teach children land ethics and to value their public lands and resources.”

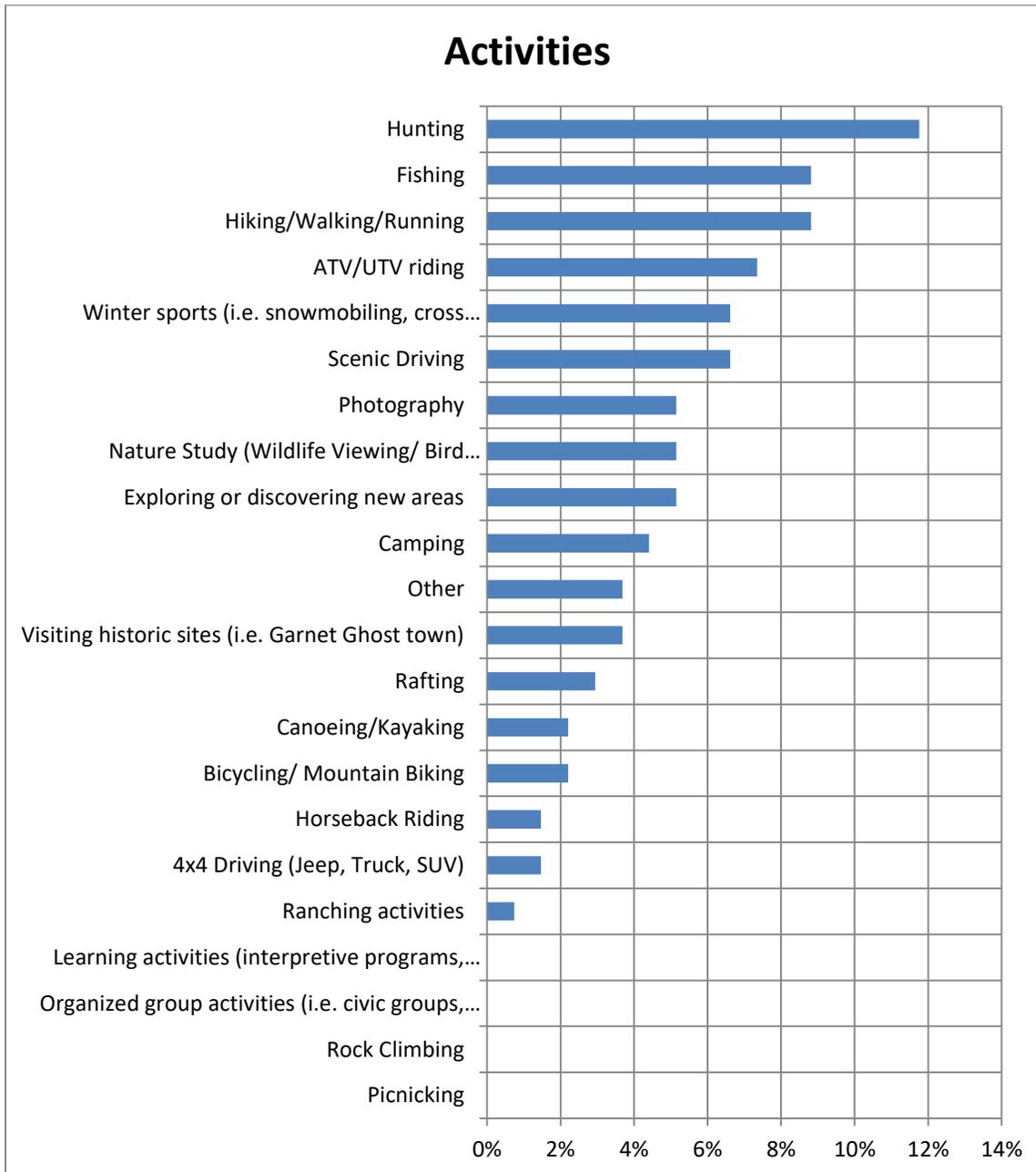
Figure 8. Community benefits most important to respondents when visiting the BLM Missoula Field Office area



Responses written in "other" include "Increased opportunity for local young people to have part-time jobs in their own community," "snowmobiling," "increased quality of life through active, outdoor lifestyle," "improved desirability as a place to live," and "access for Seniors on OHV's."

Participants were asked which activities they engaged in most often when visiting public lands in the area. The responses are recorded below in Figure 9. By far, the most common responses were traditional recreation activities such as hunting and fishing. Other popular activities focused on the mode of transportation across the landscape (hiking/walking/ running and ATV/UTV riding as well as scenic driving).

Figure 9. Activities respondents participate in most often in the BLM Missoula Field Office area



Responses written in the “other” category includes “airplane camping,” “berry picking,” “w. dirt motorcycles,” “back country snowmobiling – off trail,” and “backpacking.”

Maps and Locations of Special Places

Participants were asked to identify the places that were particularly special to them and record them on a series of maps located in their handout.

Missoula West

Figure 10. Missoula West Side Special Places Map

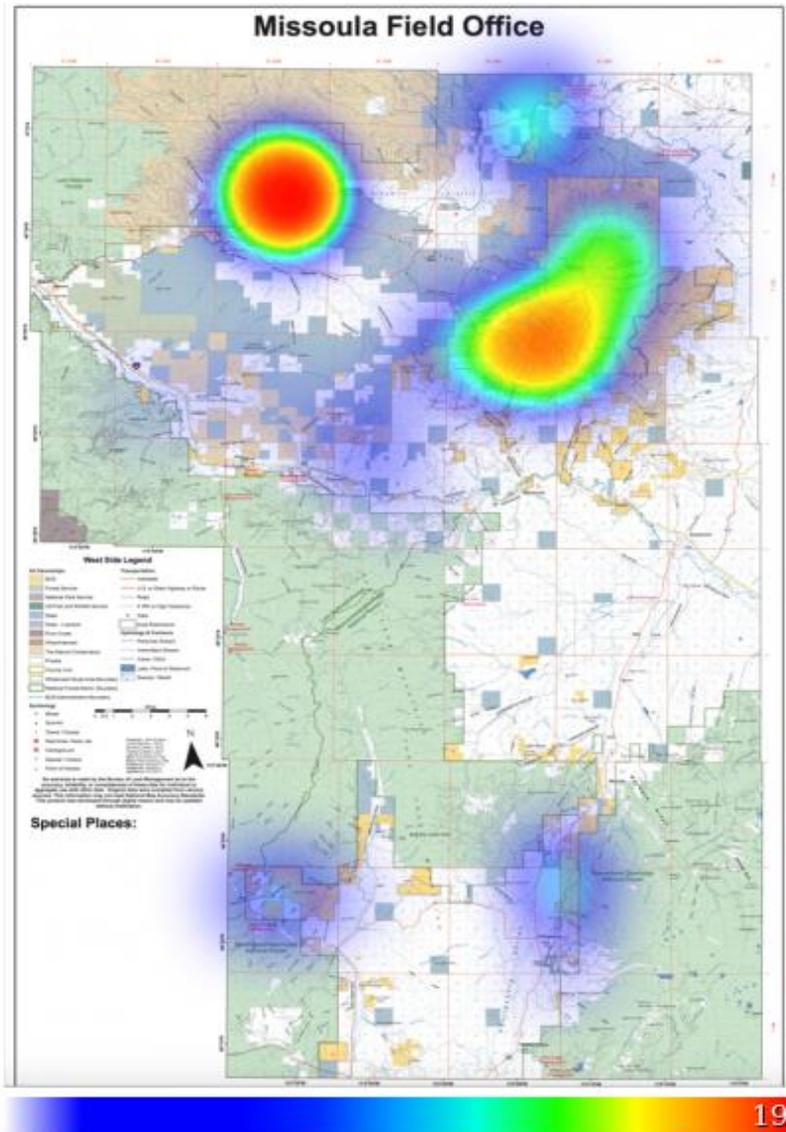


Table 5 below contains a list of the most common special places named and located by participants on their handouts for the Missoula West area map.

Table 5. Special places named by respondent on Missoula West Map

Special Place Named by Respondent (places named > 5 times)	Number of times named
Garnet Ghost Town / Range / Mountains / Area	14
Blackfoot Corridor / River	13
Chamberlain	5
Philipsburg	4
Elevation Mountain	3
Wales Creek	3
Clearwater	2
Gold Creek	2
Quigg West WSA	2
Thibodeau	2
Union Peak	2

8

On the West side of the field office, the special places identified seem to cluster around the Garnet Ghost Town and the Blackfoot River. The number of hunting and fishing comments on why these are special places seems to show the centrality of the Blackfoot River for recreation in the area.

⁸ The number of mentions in these area specific tables indicates the number of times a participant mapped that location regardless of which primary area they focused the rest of their comments on. Participants were allowed to locate and identify special places on both area maps before they selected an area of primary interest.

Table 6. Reasons given for why specific places listed have special meaning for respondents

Number of comments ⁹	Theme
45	Fishing / Hunting
26	Motorized activity facilitation
15	Geographic feature (e.g. river, mountain)
13	Historic / Cultural
12	Hiking / Biking /Walking
12	Recreation
10	Scenic / Beauty
10	Water recreation
9	Ecosystem / habitat appreciation
7	Community value
6	Spend time with friends and family
6	Wildlife
6	Remote
6	Camping

⁹ Some written comments on a particular handout would address several themes. For the purpose of sorting those comments by theme, those comments were counted in each theme they applied to. Also, respondents could list a reason for each special place they listed. Thus, the total number of counted comments will exceed the total number of overall comments listed in Appendix 3.

Missoula East

Figure 11. Missoula East Side Special Places Map

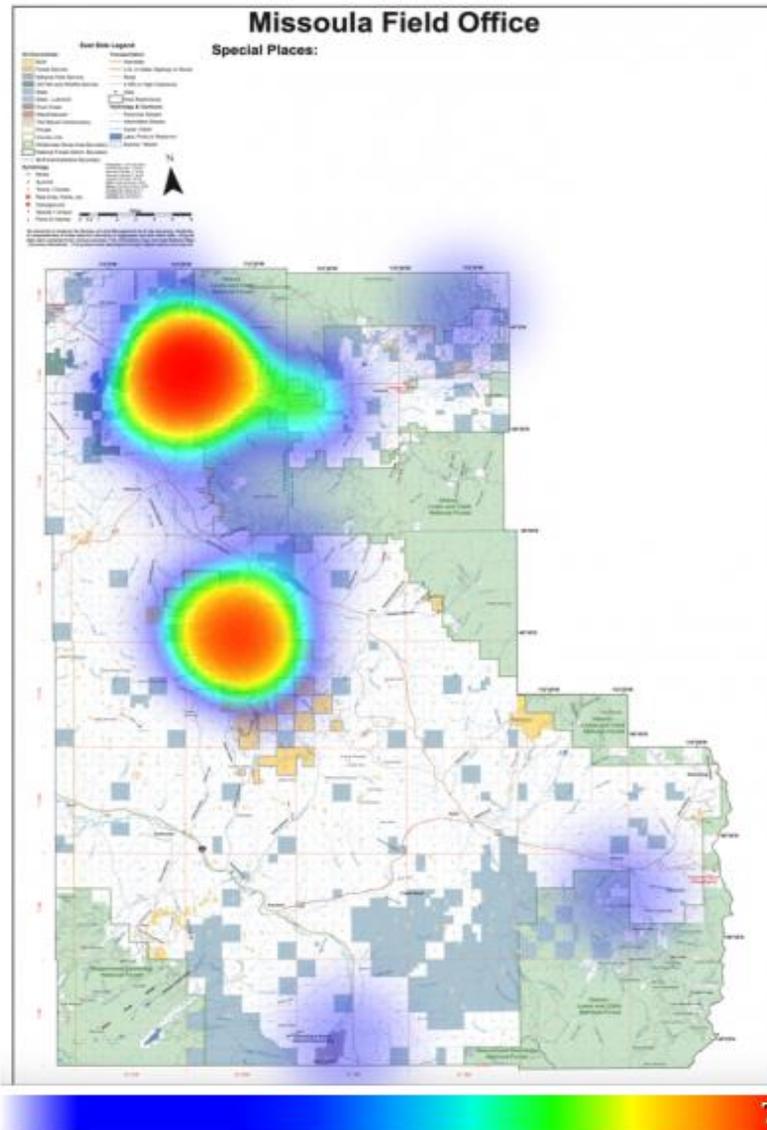


Table 7 below contains a list of the most common special places named and located by participants on their handouts for the Missoula East area map.

Table 7. Special places named by respondents on Missoula East Map

Special Places Named by Respondent (places named > 5 times)	Number of times named
Hoodoo Mountains / WSA	6
Marcum Mountain / River Corridor	4
Blackfoot River	2
Lincoln / Helmoill Junction / Hwy 200	2

On the east side of the field office, the map in Figure 11 indicates that the mapped special places also cluster into two areas. These areas should be given special consideration when planning for outdoor recreation on the landscape.

Management of BLM Missoula Field Office

The final section of the focus groups was designed to better understand the public’s desires regarding management actions and management priorities for the landscape as they prepare for a new planning process to modify the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the surrounding BLM land in the Missoula Field Office area. The participants were asked a series of open-ended questions. Their answers were sorted into a series of themes for each question, and are listed in Tables 8-10 below.

Table 8. Written comment themes for Q16 – “What could the BLM or managing partners do in planning or managing the Missoula Field Office that would positively impact the values and vision you have for this community?”

Number of Comments	Theme
15	Partnerships/Stewardship/co-management
9	Regulations and enforcement
9	Protect resources (wildlife, plants, etc.)
8	Communications and Information
7	Activity specific comments
7	Diversity of Stakeholders and Visitors
6	Access issues
5	Commercial use
2	Education
2	Infrastructure
2	Misc.
2	Leave as is/positive feedback
1	Landscape purchase/swap
1	Prioritize motorized use

The most common theme for actions the BLM could take in the planning process is to involve the community in the planning process through additional use of partnerships and stewardship programs. These efforts should take into account a wide diversity of stakeholders and visitors. Participants expressed an interest in regulations and enforcement to protect resources. Several comments were also recorded regarding the importance of communication and the sharing of information regarding the planning process (see Table 8 above).

Table 9. Written comment themes for Q14 – “Are there services or facilities that are missing in the area which prevent you from having a successful recreational experience? Why?”

Number of Comments	Theme
8	Parking
5	Campgrounds / camp sites
5	Restrooms
4	No / Nothing missing / preference for few facilities
4	Information / Communication
4	Motorized activity facilitation
4	Non-motorized activity facilitation
3	Trail construction / maintenance
3	Maps
3	Visitor / information center
3	Access issues
2	Signage

While the participants express concern about increased crowding and tourism on the landscape, they are also concerned about a lack of facilities (parking, restrooms, and campsites) to accommodate the increased visitation. Participants express the need for adequate information (communication, maps, signage, and visitor information centers) for a successful recreational experience in the BLM Missoula Field Office area.

Finally, participants were asked to help prioritize management actions for the lands managed by the BLM in the Missoula Field Office area by giving them a hypothetical open-ended question in which they could be the manager of the BLM lands in the area “for a day” to set priorities. A summary of the priorities (grouped according to theme) can be found in Table 10 below, and a complete set of comments is located in Appendix 3.

Table 10. Written comment themes for Q15 – “If you were the public lands manager for a day and could set management priorities for the BLM Missoula Field Office, what would your priorities be?”

Number of Comments	Theme
20	Access Issues
15	Activities/Recreation
13	Communications/public engagement/partnerships
9	Regulations and Enforcement
8	Ecological Issues (ecosystem, flora, fauna, water, etc.)
7	Diversity of Stakeholders or Visitors
6	Landscape characteristics (open, wild, scenic, etc.)
6	Infrastructure
5	Issues regarding sale, transfer or shrinking of lands
5	Forest management (clearing trees, brush, or deadfall) [added by RG]
4	Range Management
3	Damage to Resources (Vandalism, trash, etc.)
3	Education
2	Staffing and funding
2	No Changes - Leave as is

The results in Table 10 indicate that the most popular priority for public land management in the area is addressing access issues. Some of these comments (all can be seen in Appendix 3) express a concern for limitations to access (closed roads, no trespassing signs on traditional access routes, and connectivity from one area to the next), others express concern that pristine places could be threatened by additional access. Again, the participants’ responses urge the BLM to prioritize communication and partnerships with local groups in the management process. While outdoor recreation is a priority for most of the participants in the focus groups, other management issues regarding the health of the ecosystem and the integrity of the resources are also singled out as management priorities.

Conclusions

35 members of the public participated in one of the three focus groups offered in the summer 2017. In addition to the verbal responses to focus group questions, the participants offered over 300 written comments on their handouts (the verbal comments are recorded in Appendix 2 and every written comment submitted is located in Appendix 3). It would be impossible to comprehensively capture such a rich dialogue and such a diversity of perspectives in a short conclusion, but several observations have emerged from the data (verbal and written). This report will try to offer some of these observations in bullet point form in this conclusion. They will be broken into the broad categories of: characteristics of the landscape; threats to the landscape; opportunities emerging from the landscape; and managing the landscape.

Characteristics of the landscape

- Most participants of these focus groups **live within 50 miles of the BLM managed lands near the Missoula Field Office.**
- The **identity** of many of the participants is tied to the landscape and their memories of past encounters with the land. Often these relationships with the landscape go back several generations. Over half of all participants in the focus groups had at least ten years of experience with the landscape.
- One of the most salient characteristics of the lands for the participants is the close **proximity** of the land to where they live. It is convenient to recreate, even after a long day of work, and they express a sense of ownership for these public lands in their “backyard.”
- **Access** is a very important issue across the study area. In some cases, participants commented on the diversity of access for all travel modes throughout the study area, but at other times they expressed concern that access is or would be restricted in the future having a negative impact on their recreational experience, their quality of life, and the character of the community.
- The desire to **protect the resources** of the Missoula Field Office and surrounding lands is strong and common among the participants of the focus groups.
- Participants value that the public lands in this study area offers places for several **types of travel** by foot, horseback, boating, mountain bike, ATV, motorcycle, and 4x4 vehicles. The surrounding public lands are particularly important for the **travel connectivity** they offer between recreation destinations on the BLM lands in the Missoula Field Office area and beyond. Most participants seemed to support all modes of travel somewhere on the landscape, although not necessarily in every location.
- Participants identified the **open space** that surrounding public lands offer to their community as a particularly important characteristic of the community and the landscape.
- Ultimately, most participants expressed that surrounding public lands are essential to the **quality of life and character of their communities**, and as such should be valued and protected.
- The Garnet Ghost Town and the Blackfoot River are two of the **most iconic and important areas** in the field office area.
- **Hunting and fishing as well as hiking** are the most popular outdoor recreation activities in the area.
- A recurring concern for the **wildlife** in the area and their habitat preservation shows up in comments throughout the focus group study.

- The lands in the Missoula Field Office area provide a rich opportunity to **reconnect with nature** through tranquil escapes and an opportunity to develop a closer sense of connection to the landscape.
- The landscape is also highly prized for its **scenic quality** and natural beauty.

Threats to the landscape

- Frequently participants expressed concerned about **damage to the resources** coming from vandalism, off-trail motorized travel, overgrazing, litter, crowding, industrial or residential development, and a lack of connection or sense of stewardship for the landscape by visitors.
- Many expressed concern over **restrictions (current and additional) to access** for all modes of travel in the area.
- **Overcrowding**, particularly along the Blackfoot River corridor, is a concern for many participants.
- Another threat to these landscapes comes from the diversity of stakeholders and user groups with differing opinions about how to manage the landscape which leads to **user conflict**. According to the participants, this conflict needs to be carefully managed by the BLM through active engagement of a wide variety of stakeholders in the planning process. Participants want all voices to be heard and seek creative recreational activity designations to provide all groups at least some opportunity to participate in their favorite activities without experiencing conflict with others who choose to participate in different activities. Some participants also expressed a concern that the BLM managers were **favoring some interest groups** over others or the public as a whole.

Opportunities on the landscape

- There are great opportunities to **share the outdoors with family and friends** on the lands in this study. This has been an activity taking place for generations in the area.
- These lands also offer the opportunity to **enhance individual and public health benefits** through recreating and fitness exercise on the landscape.
- Many participants encouraged the BLM land managers to take advantage of the opportunities for **partnerships** with local stakeholders to help in the planning process and stewardship of the landscape.
- Related to this, the upcoming planning process provides an excellent opportunity to **involve the public** in data gathering and decision-making about a landscape in which they have a strong sense of ownership and identity.
- These public lands offer an opportunity for **multigenerational recreation**. Several participants offered suggestions about how to (and the need for) involving youth in the outdoors while others expressed concern that the elderly still have access to this

landscape given their more limited mobility. Often these comments were associated with a need to allow access for motorized recreation to accommodate this request.

- First and foremost, for the participants of this study, this landscape is a **place to engage in their favorite recreational activities** and to share it with family and friends as they have been doing for many years. This has helped develop and strengthen their rich and diverse connection to the place.

Managing the landscape

- **Access** to the area is one of the most common comments in several of the questions asked in the focus group. These comments are nuanced arguing for more access in some areas and less in others. Given the prevalence of the comments, careful attention should be paid to updating and publicizing the travel management plan for the field office area.
- **Information** is key. Participants encouraged the BLM to share information on a variety of formats from signage and kiosks to publicize information and increase transparency in the planning process. Communication from the BLM about the landscape showed up again and again in the written comments regarding what the BLM could do to support the community during the planning process.
- While participants were mixed about the need for additional regulations, most agreed on the need to **monitor and enforce existing regulations** designed to protect the resource.
- Because of the value of shared stewardship and the limitations of BLM resources, participants encouraged the BLM to **develop volunteer resources** to help them manage the land. This includes working with local user groups who are interested in helping with management.
- Attention should be given to **infrastructure, signage, and other facilities** especially at popular destinations such as the Garnet Ghost Town and the Blackfoot River corridor, etc.
- With an increase in tourism and visitation to the area, many participants expressed the need for additional **parking, camping, and restroom facilities**, particularly in the Blackfoot River corridor.
- The most commonly selected community benefit, **“Increased awareness and protection of natural landscapes”** speaks to the need to share with the public the importance of that protection and engage them in the protection efforts.

Appendix 1 – Participant Handout for Focus Groups

BLM Missoula Field Office

Recreation Focus Group Study



Tim Casey, PhD

Colorado Mesa University and University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Randy Virden, PhD

Arizona State University, Emeritus

2017

Participants:

- Listen, contribute, and stay focused on the subject at hand
- Feel free to keep or change your opinions in response to what you hear
- Respect others' right to share their thoughts; do not interrupt
- The moderator will stop anyone who attempts to block another's views
- Feel free to get up, obtain refreshments, or visit the restroom
- Do not engage in separate, private discussions
- Remember, participation is voluntary and anonymous on all questions

1. Please write your home zip-code below this question in the space provided.

2. Which of the following choices best describes your primary association with study area on BLM lands in the Missoula Field Office? (Circle 1)

- Visitor
- Local Resident
- Community Leader (elected / non-elected)
- Outfitter/Guide
- Business owner
- Other

3. How long have you been connected to the BLM Missoula Field Office area with the affiliation you identified? (Circle 1)

- a. Less than a year**
- b. 1-5 years**
- c. 6-10 years**
- d. 11-25 years**
- e. Over 25 years**

4. Please take a couple moments to think about a few areas or places on BLM managed public lands in the Missoula Field Office (highlighted on the map on the following pages) that have special personal meaning and importance for you.

For each of these places please do the following:

- 1. circle it and number it on the attached map;**
- 2. then in writing below name and number the place;**
- 3. indicate the reason that this place has special meaning for you**
- 4. circle the name of the most special place for you**

(It is very important that you locate every special place on the map as well as label it below the map)

Missoula Field Office

Special Places:

East Side Legend

All Ownership

- BLM
- Federal Service
- National Park Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- State
- State - Licensed
- Plain Creek
- Hydrocarbon
- The Nature Conservancy
- Private
- County Line
- Whitman Study Area Boundary
- National Forest Admin. Boundary
- BLM Administrative Boundary

Transportation

- Interstate
- U.S. or State Highway or Route
- Road
- 4 WD or High Clearance
- Gate
- Tree Restrictions

Hydrology & Contours

- Perennial Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- Canal / Drain
- Lake, Pond or Reservoir
- Swamp / Marsh

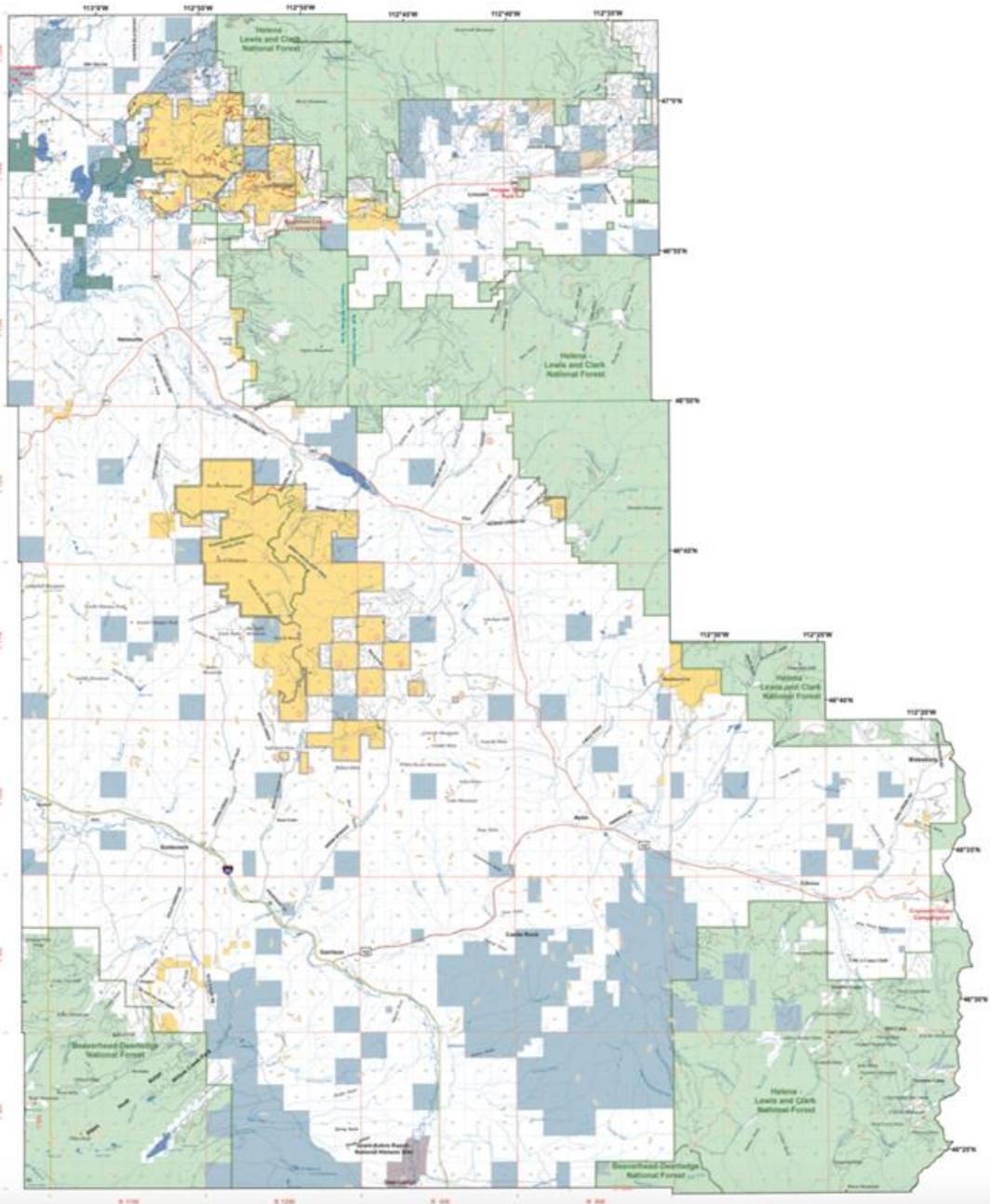
Symbology

- Mines
- Summit
- Trails - Camp
- Rest Area, Parks, etc.
- Contourpoint
- Spotline / Contour
- Point of Interest

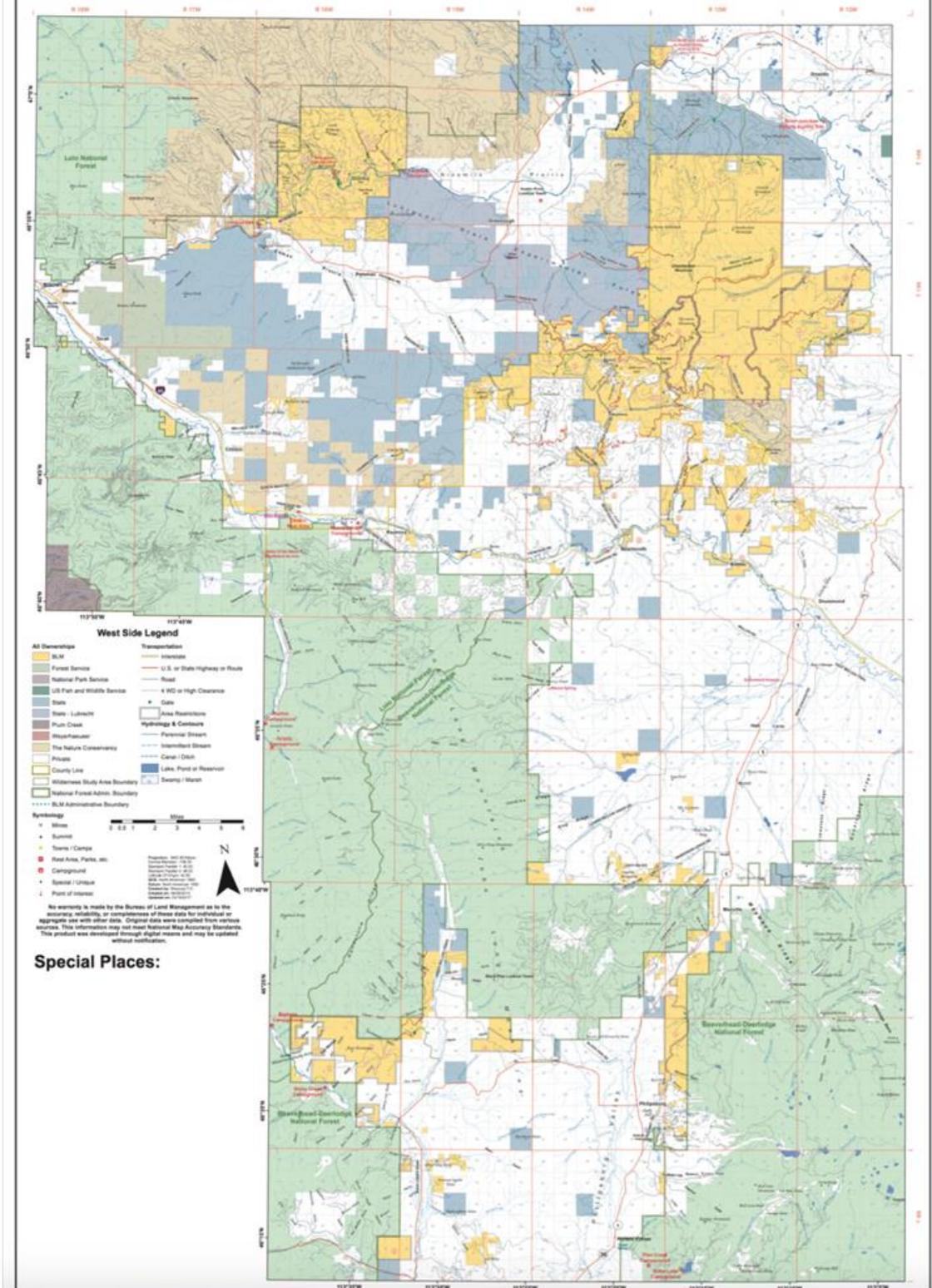
Scale
0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

North Arrow

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were provided from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be



Missoula Field Office



5. What are the qualities of the study area that make it special for you?

(Please identify these qualities in your own words and we will record them on the flipcharts. Feel free to record those ideas on this page as well.

Please don't turn the page until instructed to).

6. What are the qualities of the BLM Missoula Field Office area that makes it a special place for you? (Circle up to 5.)

- **It's my back yard**
- **It's where I spend quality time with friends and family**
- **Historic qualities - how previous generations used the area**
- **Productive qualities - grazing and hunting**
- **Biological resources - plants, animals, etc.**
- **Physical resources - geology, paleontology, etc.**
- **Cultural resources - archeology, etc.**
- **Scenic quality**
- **Spiritual and/or religious qualities**
- **Sense of freedom**
- **Wild, unspoiled, and natural**
- **Remote and rugged**
- **Sense of solitude and privacy**
- **Natural quietness**
- **Dark night skies**
- **Sense of discovery/learning opportunities**
- **Dogs and/or horses are allowed**
- **Lack of development or improvements**
- **It's where I engage in recreational activities I enjoy**
- **Other (Please name it in space below)**

7. What could, or does, diminish the specialness of these places for you?

(Please identify these qualities in your own words and we will record them on the flipcharts. Feel free to record those ideas on this page as well.

Please don't turn the page until instructed to).

**8. What could, or does, diminish the specialness for you?
(Circle up to 5.)**

- Additional fees, permits, or restrictions**
- Increased use and crowding**
- Increased traffic and/or increase use of a wider array of vehicles**
- Group size limits I consider to be too high**
- Group size limits I consider to be too low**
- Limitations on historic uses and productive qualities**
- Additional facilities and improvements**
- Lack of facilities and improvements**
- Increased access**
- Limited access**
- Vandalism, litter, graffiti, and/or human waste**
- Damage to soils and vegetation**
- Lack of solitude and privacy**
- Noise**
- Artificial light**
- Livestock or evidence of them**
- Culture clashes – locals vs. visitors or long time locals vs. move-ins**
- Lack of connection to, or education about, the place**
- Residential or industrial development (utility lines, pipelines, etc.)**
- Other (Please name it in space below)**

9. When going to your area of interest you identified earlier in the focus group, describe the interests and expectations you have for your time there? In other words, why do you go there and what do you hope to experience?

10. When visiting the BLM Missoula Field Office area which of the following personal benefits are the most important to you? (Circle up to 5)

- a. Restored my mind from stress/tension/anxiety
- b. Improved physical fitness
- c. To improve/maintain health
- d. Improved outdoor knowledge
- e. Greater self-reliance
- f. Enhance sense of personal freedom
- g. Improved sense of control over my life
- h. Improved self-confidence
- i. Living a more outdoor-oriented lifestyle
- j. Restored my body from fatigue
- k. Greater appreciation for our cultural heritage
- l. Greater awareness and appreciation of natural landscapes
- m. Greater freedom from urban living
- n. Improved ability to relate to local residents and their culture
- o. Increased personal accountability to act responsibly on public lands
- p. Greater respect for private property

- q. Closer relationship with natural world
- r. Greater understanding of the importance of wildlife to my quality of life
- s. Greater aesthetic appreciation
- t. Other (Please name it in the space below.)

11. When visiting the BLM Missoula Field Office area which of the following household and relational benefits are the most important to you? (Circle up to 5)

- a. Strengthened relationships with family and/or friends
- b. Improved health
- c. Greater recreation opportunities for your family
- d. Reduced health maintenance costs
- e. Improved family bonding
- f. More well-rounded development for our children
- g. Improved parenting skills
- h. Improved desirability as a place to live
- i. Increased work productivity
- j. Lifestyle improvement or maintenance
- k. Developing stronger ties with my family or friends
- l. Other (Please name it in the space below.)

12. When visiting the BLM Missoula Field Office area which of the following community and environmental benefits are the most important to you? (Circle up to 5)

- a. Greater community engagement in recreating on public lands**
- b. Maintenance/preservation of distinctive community atmosphere**
- c. Heightened sense of community pride**
- d. Improved desirability as a place to retire**
- e. Heightened sense of community satisfaction**
- f. Improved respect for privately-owned lands**
- g. Increased awareness and protection of natural landscapes**
- h. Greater community ownership and stewardship of recreation and natural resources**
- i. Greater protection of fish, wildlife, and plant habitat from growth, development, and public use impacts**
- j. Maintenance/preservation of distinctive public land recreation setting character**
- k. Increased local work productivity**
- l. Increased local tourism revenue**
- m. Reduced local health maintenance cost**
- n. Other (Please name it in the space below.)**

13. When visiting the BLM Missoula Field Office area, what activities do you engage in most often? (Circle up to 3)

- a. Scenic Driving
- b. Exploring or discovering new areas
- c. Hiking/Walking/Running
- d. Camping
- e. Picnicking
- f. Rock Climbing
- g. Nature Study (Wildlife Viewing/ Bird Watching/Geology/Plants)
- h. 4x4 Driving (Jeep, Truck, SUV)
- i. ATV/UTV riding
- j. Bicycling/ Mountain Biking
- k. Horseback Riding
- l. Organized group activities (i.e. civic groups, clubs, scouts, etc.)
- m. Ranching activities
- n. Hunting
- o. Fishing
- p. Rafting
- q. Canoeing/Kayaking
- r. Winter sports (i.e. snowmobiling, cross country skiing)
- s. Photography
- t. Learning activities (interpretive programs, educational outings, etc.)
- u. visiting historic sites (i.e. Garnet Ghost town)
- v. Other (Please indicate what that is in writing below).

14. Are there services or facilities that are missing in the area which prevent you from having a successful recreational experience? Why? (Please write responses here)

15. If you were the public lands manager for a day and could set management priorities for the BLM Missoula Field Office, what would your priorities be? (Please write responses here)

16. What could the BLM or managing partners do in planning or managing the Missoula Field Office that would positively impact the values and vision you have for this community? (Please write responses here)

We appreciate your involvement in this important focus group.

Your input is an important part of maintaining an ongoing inventory of our recreational users' preferences, expectations, and concerns.

Thank you very much!

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Appendix 2 – Flip Chart comments

Focus group 1:

Location: Missoula, MT

Date: 7/14/2017

Question 1: what makes this place special?

- Access to water
- open spaces
- horse access
- OHV access
- seniors can get there
- multiple access for multiple recreation opportunities
- ability to share space
- camaraderie - the social aspect
- coordinated land planning
- conservation easements
- access
- land management focus on biology
- wildlife
- diversity of opportunities
- outdoor recreation
- conductivity of lands (accessible)
- year-round hunting
- diversity of access
- mental and physical health

Question 2: What could diminish this place's specialness?

- closing previously open areas
- losing balance: recreation AND productive uses
- people no longer able to make a living off the landscape
- "don't become" Moab"
- increased fees
- lack of access
- lack of clarity, education, and enforcement of travel plan
- lack of signage
- lack of respect and the destruction of the resource
- crowding at Thibado and the river corridor
- heavy commercial use on the Blackfoot River
- more development, roads, abusive OHV use
- overgrazing

- putting in trails where not needed - social trails
- unbalanced management-too much=clear-cut; not enough=ignore

Question 3: expectations

- scenery, solitude, challenge (backcountry snowmobile)
- wildlife
- not heavily visited
- Wild, undeveloped, primitive land
- unexpected experiences-the unknown
- “get beyond the crowd” - (GBTC)
- remote
- share nature with kids: educate future voters

Question 4: missing services

- parking-(trailheads) (pullouts)
- airstrips
- campgrounds (dispersed and developed) (bikes)
- size of campsite parking (RVs)
- places for “new” activities (climbing)
- specific designations (mountain biking)
- recreational maps (BLM offer) (identify uses of areas on maps)
- community trailheads
- multi agency visitor center
- community shared information
- location to share information on recreation

Question 5: manager for a day

- follow the people - focus on higher use
- private lands cutting off access to public lands
- gain new access to public lands
- gain resources to acquire new lands
- partnerships
- more BLM field personnel
- maintain access, welcoming, diverse opportunities
- streamlined decision-making process

Question 6: positive impacts of BLM planning

- educational outreach to schools
- continue RACs
- produce more programs for schools (grade school program)

- interagency communication and planning
- accept and work with BCAs
- bring community together in planning
- incorporate younger generations in planning process
- meeting times diversity
- visitor center-interagency in Missoula “one-stop shopping” - more efficient

Focus group 2:

Location: Seeley Lake, MT

Date: 7/14/2017

Question 1: What makes this a special place?

- Many historic sites
- BLM land is part of a very diverse landscape
- very beautiful scenic area
- accessibility to land
- memories from past experiences
- opportunity of manage/plan for larger area
- opportunity for long-term planning for area

Question 2: what could diminish this areas specialness?

- Gated roads
- overgrazing of land
- designating quote study areas”-locking up wilderness
- making assumptions/actions that don’t account for change/evolution
- not taking all people into account when planning (e.g. Planning humans out of nature)
- in balance with wildlife populations because of private property actions (e.g. Overgrazing”)

Question 3: no data

Question 4: missing facilities or services?

- facilities associated with motorized use areas (parking, restrooms, campgrounds/sites)
- camping sites/grounds needed

Question 5: No data

Question 6: what could BLM do to positively impact planning process?

- More communication between agency and user groups

- more consideration before decision to act
- encourage interagency cooperation
- work with user groups to handle diverse users in a compatible manner (creative planning, communication)
- promote and have a more positive image by connecting with community

Focus Group 3:

Location: Luebrect Forest Center

Date: 7/15/2017

Question 1: what makes this a special place?

- the Blackfoot River is managed as a corridor
- maintained for grazing on isolated parcels (grazing associated lands)
- the beauty and the river in the river bottom canyons along Highway 200
- open vistas
- site for Peregrine falcon recovery and other wildlife

Question 2 what could diminish this specialness?

- Development-housing on traded parcels
- permanent structures/housing
- lack of management/enforcement-lack of funding to support management
- social trails

Question 3: expectations?

- connect to local history
- pick berries
- isolation, quiet, beauty
- experience wildlife
- dark skies

Question 4: missing services?

- more mountain biking trails (north of the town of Phillipsburg)
- access, parking at trailhead, water, restrooms
- parking to offload ATVs and snowmobiles, restrooms (Golden Creek)

Question 5: manager for a day?

- carrying capacity control (areas most accessible to Missoula) (e.g. Golden Creek)
- make sure grazing has opportunities
- keep ranching culture healthy

- easy mountain biking-can take kids on low grade trails
- enforcement on non-motorized trails
- create trails/dedicated single use trails
- engage young people (ranching kids) in management actions-build trails, etc.
- jobs and planning

Question 6: positive impact of BLM planning process?

- consider lands by drainage and landscape-not property lines
- interagency cooperation in managing lands
- from Bonner to Lincoln - turn into scenic highway designation
- involve locals and design and planning of recreational tourism and hospitality
- empirically based design and planning to spread out use
- tourism should support ranching
- working with ranching communities in planning and managing tourism
- “go to” place to access information for planning proposals

Appendix 3: Additional Written Comments on Handouts

Primary Association – comments written in “Other” category:

Special Place Reasons:

Response	Times repeated
• (abandon mines) (history) (scenery)	
• [same answer for place 1 and 2] Big Blackfoot River - great fly fishing - able to connect with nature - wonderful place to gather with others - inspiring scenic views - Bull Trout and West Slope Cutthroat habitat	2
• [same answer for place 5 and 6] Wales Creek and Quigg - quiet recreation opportunity	2
• [same for both locations] close to home	2
• [same response for both places] Regional recreation resource	2
• Ability to interconnect. Route to BLM by State, county, forest rd's and trails! Marysville to Garnet and, etc.! Garnet to Pintlers	1
• Any historical places (Mines) (Cabins) (Garnet)	1
• ATV riding (**see margin notes)	11
• Beautiful and river access, 1. Area around McNamara and Gold Creek: Beauty and easy access to wilderness w/o motorized rec. vehicles easy access for walkers, horses (walkers - not hikers) Trails diversity and snowmobiling in fairly unused terrain (exclude Mc Nama landing operations)	1
• Beautiful scenery and hist.	1
• Beauty and access to river, 2. Easy access to unpopulated area	1
• Best shed hunting in the district.	1
• Big Game and Upland game bird hunting; Landscape Photography	2
• Blackfoot River	2

• borders our private property	1
• Deer/Elk Hunting, Snowmobiling	1
• Essential opportunity for landscape-scale trail connectivity. Real potential for mountain bike-specific trail building.	1
• Favorite shed hunting country - great grouse hunting too	2
• Fishing	5
• Fishing and River Recreation	1
• Fishing area	1
• Fishing, camping, floating	1
• Fishing, camping, hiking picnicking, biking, photography	1
• Forest / Private, Deer/Elk Hunting, Snowmobiling	1
• Game Range, Game viewing	1
• Geology History	2
• good hunting opportunity mule deer/ elk	1
• Great opportunity for mountain bike trail development and multi-use trail	1
• Habitat / hunting for elk / moose / deer and grouse	1
• high elevation. unique ecosystem supporting abundant wildlife.	2
• Historic mining. Places to explore.	1
• Historic. Ancient Indian trail, Lewis and Clark Trail, Big Blackfoot R.R.	1
• Historical, Cultural Resource. attracts visitors to community. Winter recreation - skiing, snowmobiling	1
• History	1
• Hoodoos provide great unfragmented habitat and elk hunting.	1
• hunting	5
• Hunting / camping	2
• Hunting / family rec history	1
• Hunting / floating/ mt. biking / family rec.	1
• Hunting / snowmobile / ATV	1
• Hunting OP., Snowmobiling	1
• Hunting, shed hunting, elk	2
• I Love Historic mining ghost Towns, to touch my states past (Garnet Ghost Town)	1
• I Love the entire area! Mature tree stands, fast clear cool water, wildlife.	1
• I work here, and I recreate (fish, hunt, hike) here w/ my family	1
• Incredible Resource area for Recreation - River access, fishery, wildlife corridor	1

• Killed my first elk here. BLM connects FS land w/ large private land open to hunting as BMA - very important access place.	1
• L and C Route. Mining history.	1
• mines and scenery	1
• Needs to protect fish and game, 3. only important due to access to fish and game	1
• Photography - school field trips - friend (out of state visitor trips) hiking	1
• Potential River Rec and Scenic views and geology	1
• Public land for trekking	2
• quiet recreation	1
• Rec. use	1
• Remoteness / Wild / WSA	2
• Remoteness / WSA	1
• Ride and scenery	2
• River access - River	1
• River floating, fishing, hunting, bear	1
• River values - floating, fishing, camping Rec	1
• significance to Montana's History	2
• Snowmobile / Firewood	1
• snowmobile access	2
• Snowmobiling, Firewood gathering, Hunting OP.	1
• tough to reach but remote and spectacular hunting	1
• We enjoy floating the river!	1
• We hunt in that area and ride ATVs	1
• We ride ATVs in that area	1
• We use it for ATV rides [repeat for all locations]	3
• Wilderness Access. Camping / hunting / horseback riding	1
• Wilderness related	1
• X-C Skiing	1

Special Qualities:

- **Access to public land. A place to shoot guns without being hassled. Unexpected things to take a picture of.**
- **[participant listed reasons for specialness of named places under this question. recorded, again, here.]**
 - #1 John's Rudd through the Blackfoot Corridor to Hwy 200, Fishing, camping, hiking, picnicking, biking, photography**
 - #2 Garnet-Coloma Area, Photography - school field trips - friend (out of state visitor trips) hiking**
 - #3 Fishing area**
- **River and riparian habitats that have clean H2O, native plants, variety of habitat structures, snags, protected from damage by grazing or from motor vehicles**
 - wetlands that aren't degraded, with adjacent grass-shrublands that are healthy with few noxious weeds**
 - old growth timber stands**
 - areas that are protected from damage by off-road vehicles**
- **All locations = access to streams**
- **Integral part of larger public ownership, resource conservation, recreation access, wildlife habitat**
- **Open spaces with vistas, beauty**
- **Blackfoot Corridor is precious - beginning at Banner To the east fork[?!] From Lubrecht to Lincoln including Helmville it offers the outsider a beauty they have probably not experienced before.**
- **These lands have unique and special meaning to us as individuals and also to the operation of our ranch. The Blackfoot Corridor 1. borders our property, so we are glad it is managed by BLM and not sub-divided. We are concerned with the future of the small pieces within the boundaries of the BCP 2. We would like to see these managed as is and not sold for development of homesites.**
- **Historical Areas - keep old mines and towns as they were**
Access to mountains - so people can see scenic areas - high lakes - wildlife -
- **The CBO offers landscape scale opportunities for trail connectivity, specifically between Missoula and the Seeley area.**

-
- - Trees
 - Wildlife
 - Weather / Seasonal changes
 - Water / Streams / Rivers
 - Fishing
 - Lower Population
 - Open space and access to it
 - Hunting
 - Snowmobile tours
 - Horseback riding

- It is no more special than any other public area. The "special" aspect goes away when access is limited to just a few special interests. Almost all of BLM land was open to motorized at one time in Montana. The existing roads, built for motorized use need to be opened again. It will disperse the majority of users to lessen impact on the small areas still opened to motorized. There is no good reason to lock up most of this land. Those who opposed motorized use have had 7 million acres of our best lands in wilderness to use without motorized interference. Motorized includes handicapped, elderly, very young, and physical disabilities. To discriminate against this group, which is exactly what road closures do.

- Ability to use routes!

- History site wild life scenic

- - Something for everyone and every season (hike, fish, bike, boat, drive, paddle, ski, winter, spring, summer, fall)
- Community significance, social ease and benefit (I.e. - Backroad to school, shortcut to mill, local path to the good fishing/swimming hole.

- A nice variety of outdoor recreation opportunities

- Scenery and accessibility for elderly and handicapped
- Open roads available to see our land
- Scenic and historic sites

- 1 historic sites
- 2 Accessibility to land

- The wildlife the beauty of the landscape

- mountain/ forest/ wildlife scenery
 - Design an ATV/UTV/OHV trail from Missoula / Rattlesnake area to Seely Lake / Game range area.
 - Access. Other than walking.
 - Day hikes
 - Great mountain scenery
 - Design ATV trails that are 40-60 mi loops.
 - Ability to go and see what you could not do otherwise. (i.e. no horse)
-

- - Open
 - accessible
 - senior access
 - forest
 - ohv access

- Keep the land accessible to older generation 60+.
Good Access. easy to find and drive or walk recreational

- - Important areas for Wildlife connectivity between larger core habitat areas
- Popular quiet recreation areas for Hunting, Fishing, rafting, hiking, within a relatively short distance of Missoula
- Opportunities for xc-skiing on non-motorized roads/trails in winter
- Historic sites like Garnet Ghost Town and Blackfoot River corridor made famous in a River Runs Through it

- High-Quality Functioning Ecosystem that supports diverse wildlife populations and phenomenal recreational opportunities for various user groups.

- snowmobiling

- 1 snowmobile access

- - Diversity of opportunities (Remoteness to developed)
- Access to public lands for hunting, fishing, hiking
- Less developed options to recreate (as opposed to KOA's, Natl. Parks, etc.)

- History and Wild. This is a place to ride my horse and observe History. Keep it wild but save the history of the area. Wilderness study area very important. Protection of wildlife and fishing.

- The ability to have multi-use access close to home. What is special for me is not special for all, it is important to focus on multi-use so that everyone can enjoy the land in their own way.

- Being able to access these areas but not having them overrun by roads or development provides the back-country experience I'm after and that is so important for wildlife habitat. These unfragmented, intact landscapes should be conserved and protected - while still open for existing traditional uses like timber harvests and grazing as long as new roads / development do not occur. Remoteness, undeveloped, low road densities, great habitat and great hunting opportunities are what makes these lands important to me. Connectivity is more important than road access, to me.

- 1. Walk-in area void of motorized vehicles
Area 2 - More of a back-country experience

- The Belmont/Blackfoot Corridor areas are the most familiar [sic] areas for me. I value the recreation opportunities in the corridor, along with so many other people - too many sometimes! The Belmont country is much more peaceful and there it's the hunting and wildlife habitat that I find most important. I appreciate the managed forests and prescribed burning that has occurred - and continues - on the former Plum

Creek Timber Co. lands and hope that restoration work continues into the future.

- **1. Blackfoot River Corridor: Iconic, accessible, resource rich, place defining, partnership w/ multiple agencies connected conservation lands - part of a bigger picture**
- **2. Garnet: unique, historical, multi-use.**
- **Blackfoot River Corridor - Of all the Private Public and BLM Lands the use on the Blackfoot River is high. A management decision regarding BLM Lands needs to address the continued move to more commercialized use. The rivers are congregation points and as population increases the public users are being pushed off the use of the river and the public lands adjacent to it.**

Special Qualities – comments written in “Other” category:

- **connectivity to other wildlife habitats, corridors, areas of conservation**
- **BLM Lands are an integral component of regional land conservation commitments**
- **Beauty of river valley**
- **It's mine; I am part owner in public lands.**
- **OHV Riding - open roads**
- **snowmobiling**
- **River recreation opportunities**
- **Motorized vehicle use**
- **Economic Equalizer - When the scale is tipped to commercial uses the economic equalizer of public land is LOST**

Qualities that Diminish Specialness:

- **Gates Shot up signs**
- **- Vandalism of the land**
 - **Lack of respect**
 - **Overcrowding**
 - **Social Trails**
 - **Closed Gates when gates were supposed to open - No prior information giving. Maps**
 - **Hunting Fishing Regs, Community [?] - Sign**
 - Volunteer GPS folks where we go and what we do**
- **crowding at specific points**
- **too much focus on short term user satisfaction vs. long term stewardship.**
- **Lack of management / enforcement**

- development of residents and cabins
lots of dogs, isolated areas fenced - making cow movement difficult as recreational activities hindered
- Gates - (stay out sign) "Loss of Freedom"
Old Roads - that stayed travelable is now torn up with boulders - not enjoyable or eye appealing
- Road closures, areas set aside for sole use of limited [underlined] number of special interest uses.
- Closures!
- gated roads
over grazing
 - - Lack of reasonable access
 - - Destruction of resources that take a lifetime to regenerate
 - - Inability to use the resources in a healthy manner that doesn't destroy the resources.
- Lack of access for anyone except the young, athletic, outfitters and wealthy.
Gated Roads.
- Closed roads! Access
Gates locked.
- Not having access to it = (Fires)
- No/ Limited access: When private land is sold (stimson) the new owner puts up no trespassing signs. The boundary is not always well identified (or who the new owner is - point of contact)
Human disrespect (litter, etc).
Big money land buyers resulting in closure
Inaccurate maps
- Locked gates
- closure to snowmobiling
- restrictions to historic motorized access in particular snowmobile access.
 - - Over development of resources (Large mines, too many roads)
 - - Over use of river recreation by guides on Lower Blackfoot River from Round up to [end of sentence]
 - - Lack of information on recreational opportunities - BLM campgrounds, developed trails, access to isolated tracts.
 - - Avoid to [sic] much motorized use - balance with non-motorized
- Too many floaters. Too many roads and too much logging. Too much no respect public lands. Please use designated trails. Controlled management logging, fire, and public use of mining. Don't let public land become private. Lands open to all. Protect habitat.
- One type of land use setting limits that restrict use by others.
- ATV / OHV violations in restricted areas
Lack of respect for public lands

-
- Climate ^ ["change" triangle symbol] impacting water quality/quantity and subsequently the natural resources
 - Lack of mgmt of area
 - Lack of care and attention / respect by users
 - overuse of the land
 - Lack of funding to the agencies who manage Land (BLM Budget)
 - concern about how climate ^ ["change" triangle symbol] is impacting weather patterns - dryer summer, ex; and how that will influence how financial resources are directed (Fire Suppression)
 - Concerned about how current ^ing ["changing"] missions of land mgmt agencies may not be in concert w/ public goals.

-
- Commercial USE! As an example, June 28th float on the upper Blackfoot - Harry Morgan (?) to Russel Gates - 22 boats 100% Commercial users - Private Folks are pushed out with commercialization

- - structural impacts from off-road vehicles - trail scars, mud, erosion, weeds
- Vandalism damage, litter
- livestock overgrazing damage
- mining waste, damage, H2O pollution
- timber overharvest without retaining wildlife habitats in important areas - snags, riparian areas, wildlife travel corridors, wetlands, old growth

-
- short sighted development

- - gated roads
- study areas
- ever increasing tourism
- bias for wildlife over human interests/uses

-
- - noise
 - litter
 - motorized vehicles
 - too crowded

- - motorized use restrictions
- too much motorized use
- Not including humans as a legitimate

-
- - Not having access for OHV riding so all, including seniors, can enjoy the area
 - locked Gates Not allowing you to move from one area to another
-

-
- - the presence of motorized or mechanized recreation in wilderness - quality areas - or quiet stretches of river - that should be managed for their wildlife values, solitude, and unconfined / undeveloped recreation
 - road building and development of infrastructure / resources in roadless landscapes
 - Loss of public access to BLM lands due to issues w/ private land owners, etc....
 - a giant copper mine up Union Creek
 - Lack of signage and enforcement of road / trail closures

- - Dumping, Trash, Defacing
 - Crowding (heavy commercial use)
 - overgrazing, poor range quality
 - too many roads/ Trails
 - More weeds

- - development
 - More roads
 - OHV use/abuse
 - Lack of law enforcement or disregard of road closures, etc.
 - Lack of clear regulations, especially in terms of motorized road useage
 - on one side clear cutting... on the other side, No timber thinning or prescribed burns.
- in other words, we need responsible and sustainable forest management.
-

Diminish Specialness – comments written in “Other” category:

-
- Restriction of motorized use.
 - Lack of Airstrips - access to backcountry beyond roads
 - management by popular opinion vs. management by informed stewardship
 - Trail construction w/o insight and collaboration w/ trail users.
 - Inability to mitigate resource damage! Erosion, wear,
 - motorized activity
 - Users not respectful of other types of use
 - Poor signage. Inaccurate maps -
 - People from out of state buying locking up land
 - Impacts of climate ^ ["change"] on the landscape / resources
-

Interests and Expectations:

- **The unexpected**
 - Relaxation - fresh air - wildness of the land - animals - birds - plants - visual opportunities - scenery - macro to micro - mosses, etc. Back to primal land
 - enjoy beauty of relatively natural landscape
 - Quiet, isolation, beauty of place, solitude
 - Garnet - historical connection, corridor for chokecherries
 - How did the people survive and live here - "Enjoyment" "Take Pictures"
 - Remote spaces, scenic viewing, hunting / fishing, exercise
 - Open the roads so we can escape the crowds.
 - Ability to access them.
 - 1- Play
2- Reduce Stress
 - 1. refresh my soul
2. improve physical health
 - Solitude and self-discovery.
 - to see the beauty of our region of the nation
 - Enjoyment of the outdoors
Be with friends and family. Hunting fishing hiking
 - beauty of the hills
 - Ability to go and see what you could not do otherwise.
 - I go there to see wildlife, new scenery, visit with friends, have the open feeling. Experience fresh air, new growth and access.
 - I go to experience wilderness - for solitude, undeveloped landscapes, primitive and unconfined recreation.
* My favorite areas are places that have incredible intrinsic value - they are important for their wild, natural qualities whether they're ever visited or not.
 - If I hike into somewhere, I hope to not see other people or trucks on closed roads. I hope to find wildlife and visiting remote areas.
 - snowmobiling
 - snowmobile related {scenery, solitude, challenge
 - Less people compared to other river backcountry areas (FA, NPS). More wildlife.
 - undeveloped areas
wildlife
history
keep it wild
keep this land public ["public" underlined]
 - I expect people to be able to choose how they experience the land. (choice)
-

(Interests and Expectations Continued)

- I hope to experience unfragmented landscapes, few people, lots of animals and freedom to roam.
 - Good diversity of wildlife and good numbers
Walk-in areas reduce the number of hunters / outdoor recreationists appreciably!
 - Fresh air and to be in natural areas. I hope to escape noise/motors and development.
 - Sense of "wild"
connect w/ family
Sharing important places w/ kids - helping the next generation of voters learn to value our resources and learn land ethics
Discovery
Challenge
Natural beauty - sense of awe
 - Interests and Expectations - Why do I go to the Blackfoot, It is the closest place to go on a Clean Cold River [sic]. I go for the fishing and the ability to disconnect from daily life within 1/2 hour of work or my home.
 - I go there for birdwatching and wildlife watching and hope to see species that I can find in other areas, so old growth or riparian and wetland - associated species or alpine areas
 - to be challenged in the company of friends or alone. to be alone, sometimes.
-

Personal Benefits – comments written in “Other” category:

-
- ability to get beyond the crowd.
 - BLM ownership parcels can become cornerstones for private land conservation
 - [not circled, but wrote:] Dark skies
 - Ability to Enjoy use and help maintain!
 - - providing my own meat (hunting) - developing a better understanding / experience of/with wildlife - habitat.
-

Household Benefits – comments written in “Other” category:

-
- Appreciating private land owners.
 - Awareness and appreciation of natural resources. Increased self confidence in the outdoors.
 - wildlife
 - snowmobile
 - opportunity to teach children land ethics and to value their public lands and resources.
-

Community and Environmental Benefits – comments written in “Other” category:

-
- Increased opportunity for local young people to have part-time jobs in their own community
 - snowmobiling
 - increased quality of life through active, outdoor lifestyle
 - Improved desirability as a place to live
 - Access for Seniors on OHV's [last word underlined]
-

Activities – comments written in “Other” category:

-
- Airplane camping
 - berry picking
 - w. dirt motorcycles
 - back-country snowmobiling - off trail
 - Backpacking
-

Services or Facilities Missing:

-
- No
 - Campgrounds - including bike specific areas. Restroom facilities (vault toilets) or priority access. Recreational maps. Community center for all lands - State, Fed, Community
 - Services - would be management that can restore past resource degradation to highly disturbed areas. (I realize that funds are limited)
 - Airstrips [underlined] airplane camping provides a means of enjoying remote areas. It creates a low environment impact access means and promotes dispersed recreation activities.
 - One stop community "trailhead" that facilitates orientation to public resources.
 - Yes!
 - In Gold Creek Area: toilets and parking areas
 - mountain bike specific / optimized trail building - landscape-scale multi-use trail connectors
 - The Forest Service, maybe BLM, spend more time locking gates and restricting access than they do clearing trails that are covered in downfall - No access.
 - Public facilities! Camps. Bitty!s (?)
 - Trail heads to park and camp, bathrooms
 - No - we are blessed with abundant outdoor recreational opportunities
 - Interpretive, on and off site. - I enjoy not having facilities.
 - Gates [word underlined] on perfectly good roads. So why remove those from my access. A.T.V. dedicated areas for those that need to be challenged.
 - Parking areas for ATV's.
-

- Good maps. Signage. Parking.
- OHV designated trails with good signage - Maps for ATV trails
- There should be an interagency visitor customer service center / info booth in downtown Missoula, not at separate offices at Fort Missoula.
- Outhouses at the heads of the major BLM Road networks - would reduce the "white flags" in the grass. Increased signage for roads depicting [?] open/ closed/ seasonal etc.
- Parking load and unload ATV and snowmobiling
- Designated parking
- - River Access to the Clark Fork between Clinton and Deer lodge. - Developed trails for hiking, particularly in large BL blocks (Chamberlain, Hoodoos, Marcum). - Focused recreation information -> e.g. where to x-country ski; where to Hike; where to float
- More parking and trailhead facilities big enough for trailer (horse). More camp sites.
- Parking that is maintained year-round
- I prefer backcountry experiences - where no facilities are provided - so no.
- It would be great to see a larger or more visible presence to help keep disrespectful or unlawful behavior at bay.
- Yes - lack of river camping on BLM lands on the Blackfoot.

Manager for a Day:

- Remove unneeded gates and remove the mindset that more wilderness areas are needed. 111 million acres are enough!
- 1 - Accessibility - for all to all public lands
2 - Multiple - land use
3 - Enhance communication [?] between state and federal agencies
4 - Restore the RAC's (D.C. controlled)
- Important habitat protection and restoration (snags, old growth, river and riparian habitats, wetlands, grass-shrub areas that support rare grassland species.)
- I would manage as it is now done at MFO. They do a good job. The BLM is still less regulation bound as to access, activities on the land, and contact with visitors.
- Ask the question: to do your best as a resource manager, do you (public) own the best lands to accomplish your objectives?
- 1. daily capacity 2. grazing access
- maintain grazing use on public lands
- more communication
- sustainable development for human-powered recreation
- Maintain the lands such that the natural productivity is preserved with access allowed to most. Some natural resources should be recovered / used but offset some costs.
- Open appropriate [underlined] roads to spread out users and provide reasonable access to our lands for handicapped, elderly etc. Road closures would need concrete [underlined] reasons only. Closures should be challenged as discrimination against handicapped.

- Mitigate issue, not desired image
 - camping area open gate better trail heads
 - Hire more recreation staff and then give them the tools to do their job. [respondent drew a star at the beginning of this response and underlined "hire more recreation staff"]
 - provide healthy quiet outdoor recreation
 - 1. Open gates that are closed due to BLM convenience.
2. Remind my people that we manage for the people.
 - open gates to have more road access.
 - Where gates are.
 - Good maps
Trail maintenance
Balanced forest management for Fire protection - ground brush clearing and thinning
 - - Open up access to areas for all
- Unlock the gates!
- More OHV designated trails (none now! [underlined])
 - leave it as is. Clean out dead tree. Thin and clean.
 - 1. Concentrate use in areas that are already high impact. Expand trails if necessary / possible in places where there are already roads / trails rather than on more wild areas.
2. Protect Wilderness Study Areas and other wilderness - quality land for their wilderness qualities - don't allow wilderness character to diminish or potential for Congressional designation. There are good opportunities to expand bicycle trails along the Blackfoot River corridor
 - opening more area for ATV and snowmobiling
 - analysis of actual land uses and impacts to determine suitable uses as opposed to placing restrictions and closures based on political and special interest expectations
 - - Inform to public through multiple sources - print, TV, Internet (social media) at LOCAL / REGIONAL [all caps and underlined] (Western MT). What we have now. What we do.
- Protect / improve existing resources
- Public Service
 - More contact with the public by experienced managers.
Control public use permitting and control of numbers.
Keep access open to public lands.
 - 1. work to allow responsible industry such as logging
2. Protect access for motorized and bike use including snowmobiles in the winter because these uses are not permitted in wilderness
 - Provide more feedback to public about all the great conservation efforts by BL. This might help offset the push to transfer federal land ownership. The proponents seem to accuse the feds either of not doing anything or not managing well. Neither is accurate!
 - 1) Protect and lightly manage large tracts of land.
2) Add to BLM land holdings while the opportunity exists.
3) Protect existing land from disrespectful / unlawful use.
-

- Seeking opportunities to enhance connectivity between BLM lands and other protected areas. Acquire key parcels that bridge parcels and/or enhance access. Explore role of BLM in community forests
- Improve access points - (not just more, but better) parking, variety of use, i.e. work with lands to balance increased use. More dispersed campgrounds work with putting resources where demand is highest.
- Recognize humans in the environment.
 - Encourage dispersion of use.
- Work closely w/ FWP to determine how / where we could increase wildlife habitat quality. Are there areas to restore species - i.e. bighorn suitable habitat
 - how to increase access to isolated BLM public lands i.e. Mannix Park
- protecting and conserving large, intact and undeveloped lands
 - better forest management (thinning, prescribed burns)
 - more education / signage / enforcement of rules / regulations, especially road closures and illegal OHV use.

Planning or Management Suggestions that Would Positively Impact:

- Forget climate change management can of worms. No reserved camping. Leave things the way they are. There is nothing wrong with no action. Don't manage for noise reduction. Every area does not need to be managed for future wilderness.
- Interagency planning and communication including private landowners and private partnerships. Everyone on the same page.
 - Other: some folks in the West and Mt want this to become the Northern Hemisphere Recreation Capital, or the Western Hemisphere Rec. Capital :-)
- Restoration and protection of important wildlife habitats, landscape-wide conservation planning, work with partners (other landowners) to maintain access to our public lands.
- continue RAC
- integrate planning and management with other public land managers (Fed, State, local and related NGO's)
- Acknowledge the power of good design!
 - education of the public on the idea of public lands is for all - not just recreationists - some of us pay to use the public lands - also education of users on protecting the natural resources - ranchers were the original environmentalist and know to take proper care of the environment
- Figure out what percentage of users are motorized or non-motorized. Majority use should be given priority, not vocal minority special interests. There are over 100,000 off highway vehicles owned by Montana residents alone.
- Consider the users! Consider the users!
- more communication
- Embrace, permit, allow historic uses and use patterns.
- reduce motorized activity
increase healthy activities

-
- Increase public visibility of agency. (mostly invisible at present)
 - Talk to other agencies (USFS, DNRC etc) to make things work for the public [word underlined].
 - open gates to roads and clean up the dead fall of trees.
 - Act as mediator between private land owner and public users (i.e. ATV/UTV club users).
 - [arrow drawn from this question to their answer to question 15 - copied below]
 - Open up access to areas for all
 - Unlock the gates!
 - More OHV designated trails (none now! [underlined])
 - Selective log and clean up the forest. Take advantage of the value of the trees. Could put loggers to work that pay taxes. Win-win
 - 1. Manage the wild areas on BLM land for their undeveloped qualities.
2. Acquire private lands or access rights when possible to ensure public access and management.
 - Continue conversations with constituents after the planning period - not just through the RAC. Don't operate BLM lands in a bubble - work with state / local agencies. Time timber harvests outside of heavy use seasons [underlined].
 - more open areas for ATV and snowmobiling
 - 1 more info released to the public on planning goals
2 give consideration to National Protection Area designation to replace wilderness study areas designation
 - - Be open and transparent and inclusive. Increase engagement w/ Millennials
- Improve public involvement in land management planning.
- Develop more partnerships on specific projects (e.g. Clark fork River access w/ Clark fork Coalition, Trout Unlimited, FWP)
 - Make management plans more public. Written and public meetings and signage and maps. Multi [underline] agency information USFS, BLM, F.W.P. in one area. Map or paper. Keep committees active and working with managers. Develop more school demos. and talks 5-6 grade.
 - Make an effort to allow use by all. Don't set restrictions to type of use, instead promote responsible use and respect for others and the land.
 - Adopt backcountry conservation management proposals to protect large, undeveloped and unfragmented landscapes.
 - Seek a balance for the various forms of outdoor recreation, with thought about seasonal uses. Example - hunters / anglers are seldom in conflict with cross country skiers and snow mobilers. Could be different regs for same area for seasonal recreationists.
 - Understand that expanding populations and growth of motorized / "industrial" style recreation are going to increase. Hold the line as much as possible against further decreasing wild, open, intact spaces. Get younger generations more involved.
 - Continue seeking and enhancing partnerships w/org. including other Federal, State and Local agencies and NGOs to maximize resource protection/access. Take an active role in Local Community development initiatives - Ex: Community Wildfire protection, City / co Growth policies, Land use development regulated by county.
-

- **Recognize the user base is going to increase use on many different parts of the land. Work with all agencies better to coordinate use in those places that are getting most use! (I believe this means more aggressive management of commercial users)**
 - **Consult w/ local mountain bike groups to collaborate on trail development and maintenance.
- collaborate w/ local stakeholders while maintaining the mission and values of the stewardship role of land managers.**
-

Appendix 4: Cross Tabulation of Key Variables

Figure 12. Special qualities detailed by longevity of connection to place

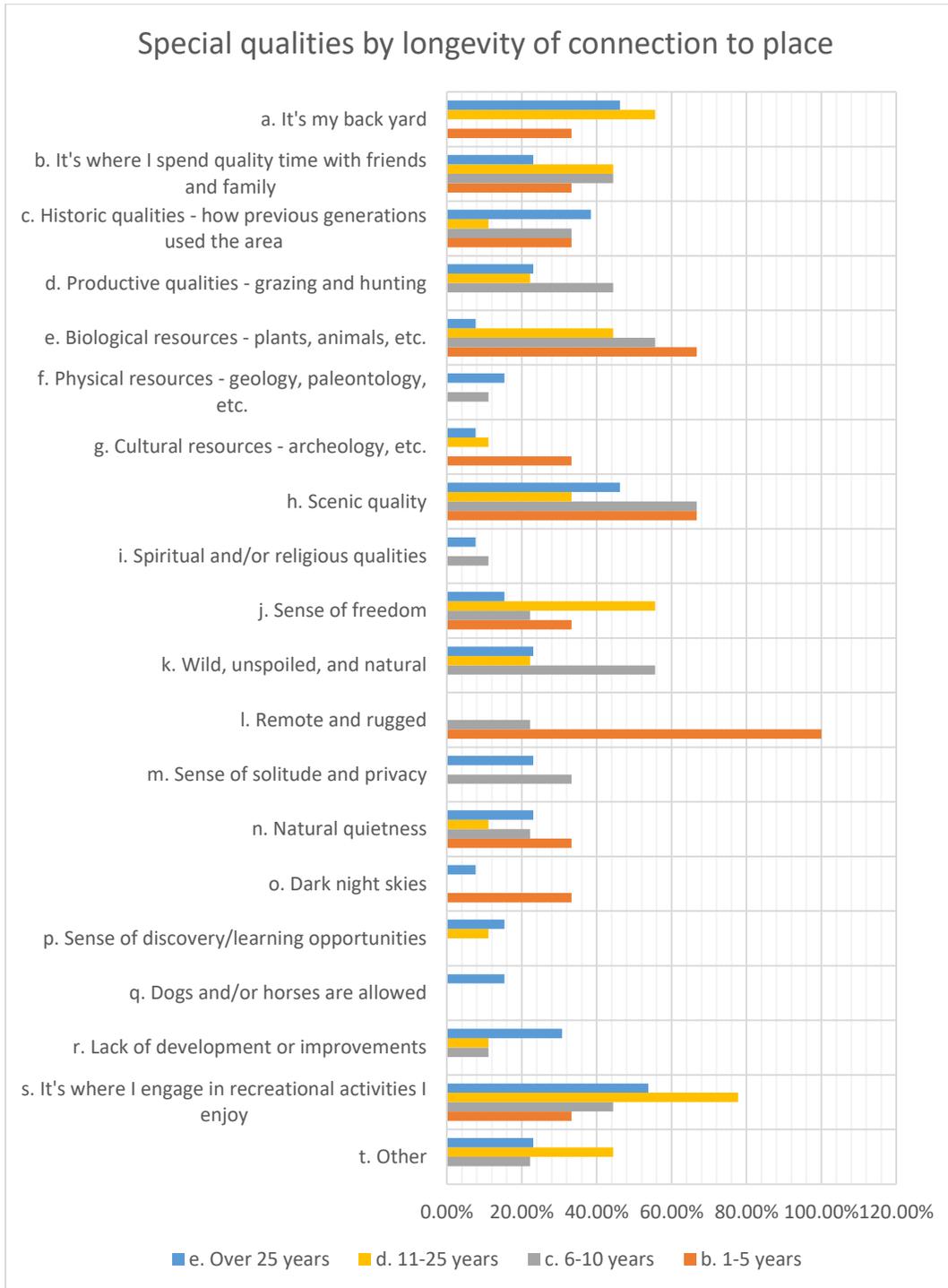


Figure 13. Special qualities detailed by association

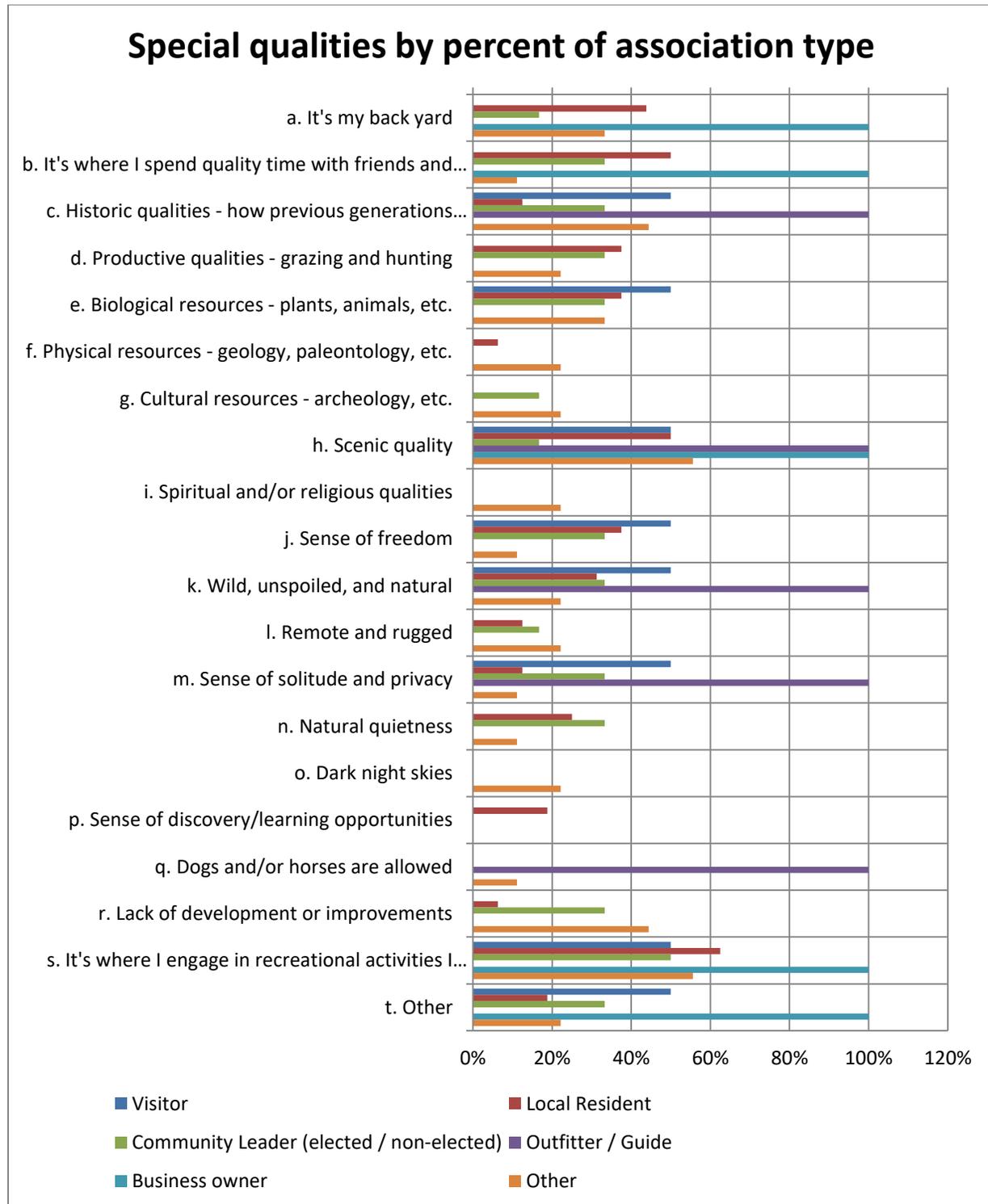


Figure 14. Diminishing qualities by longevity of connection to MFO

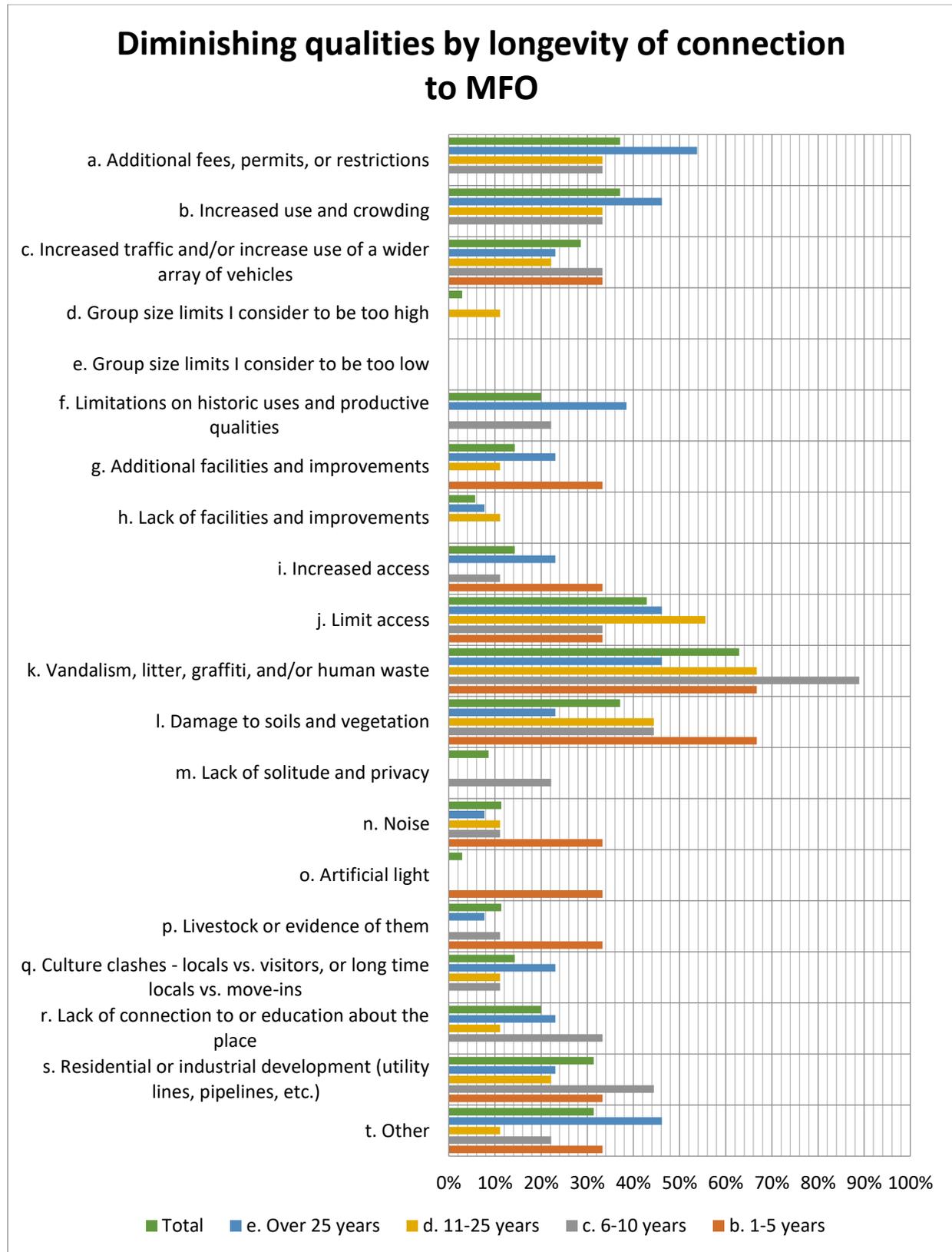


Figure 15. Diminishing qualities by affiliation

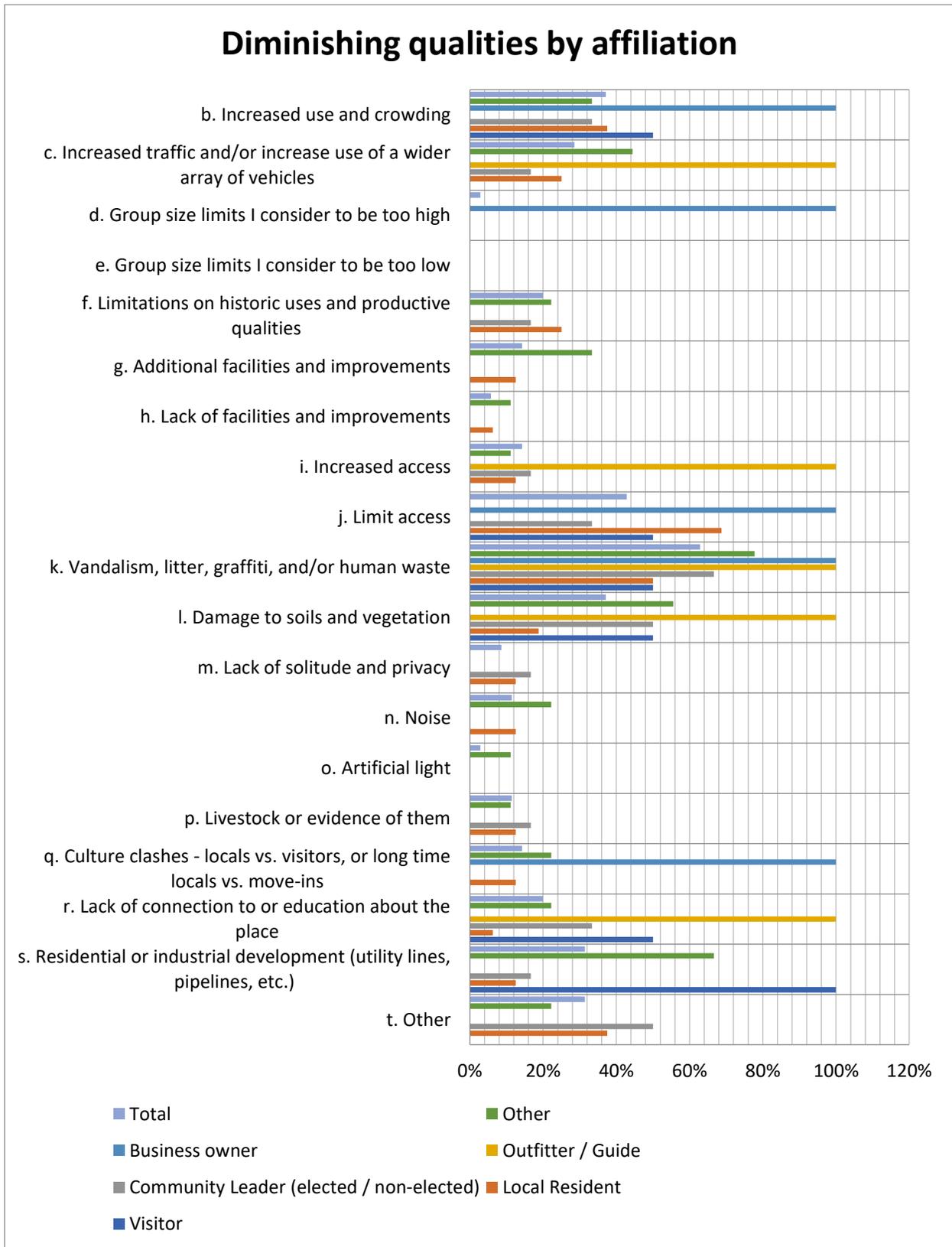


Figure 16. Activity preference by longevity of connection to MFO

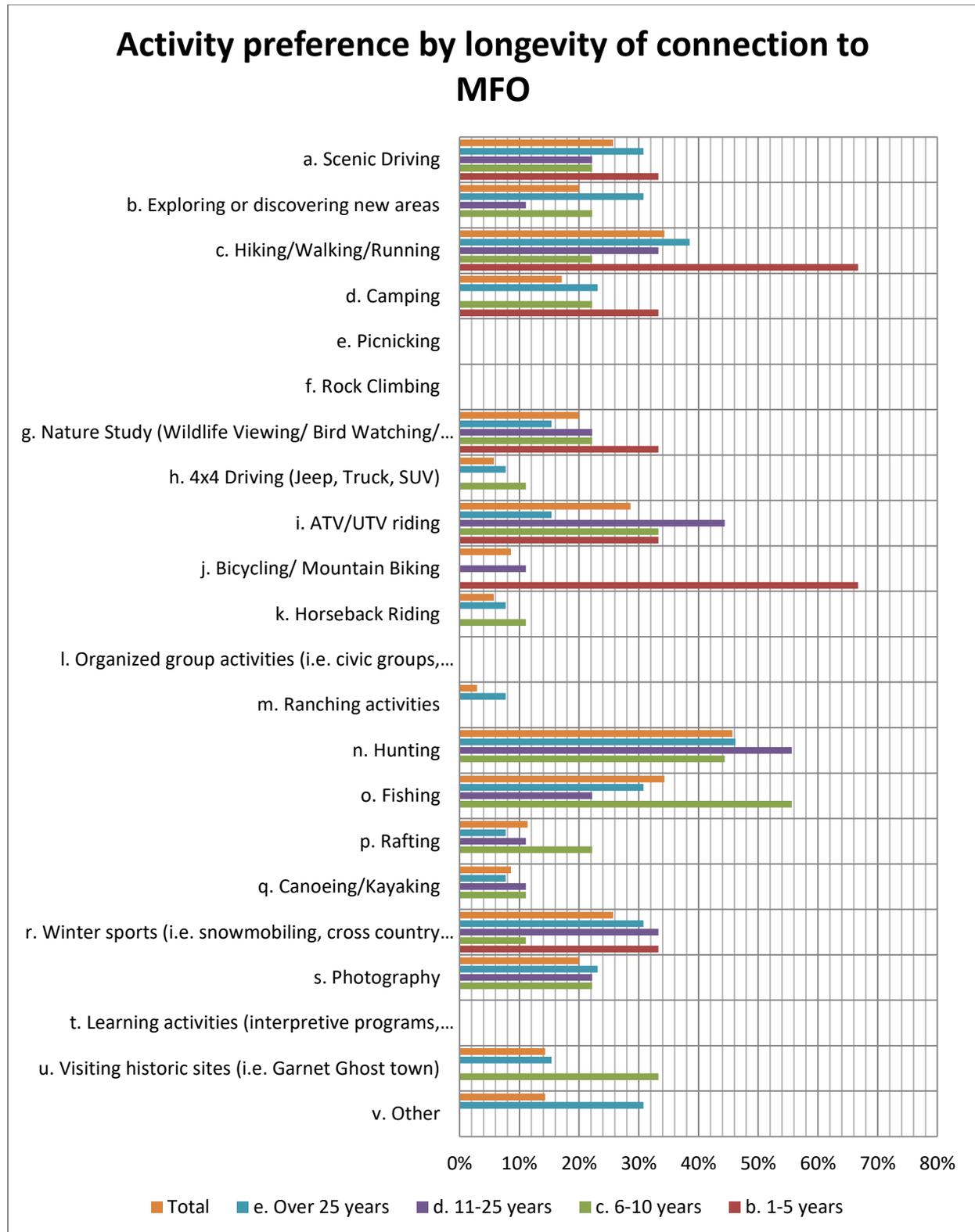


Figure 17. Activity by association

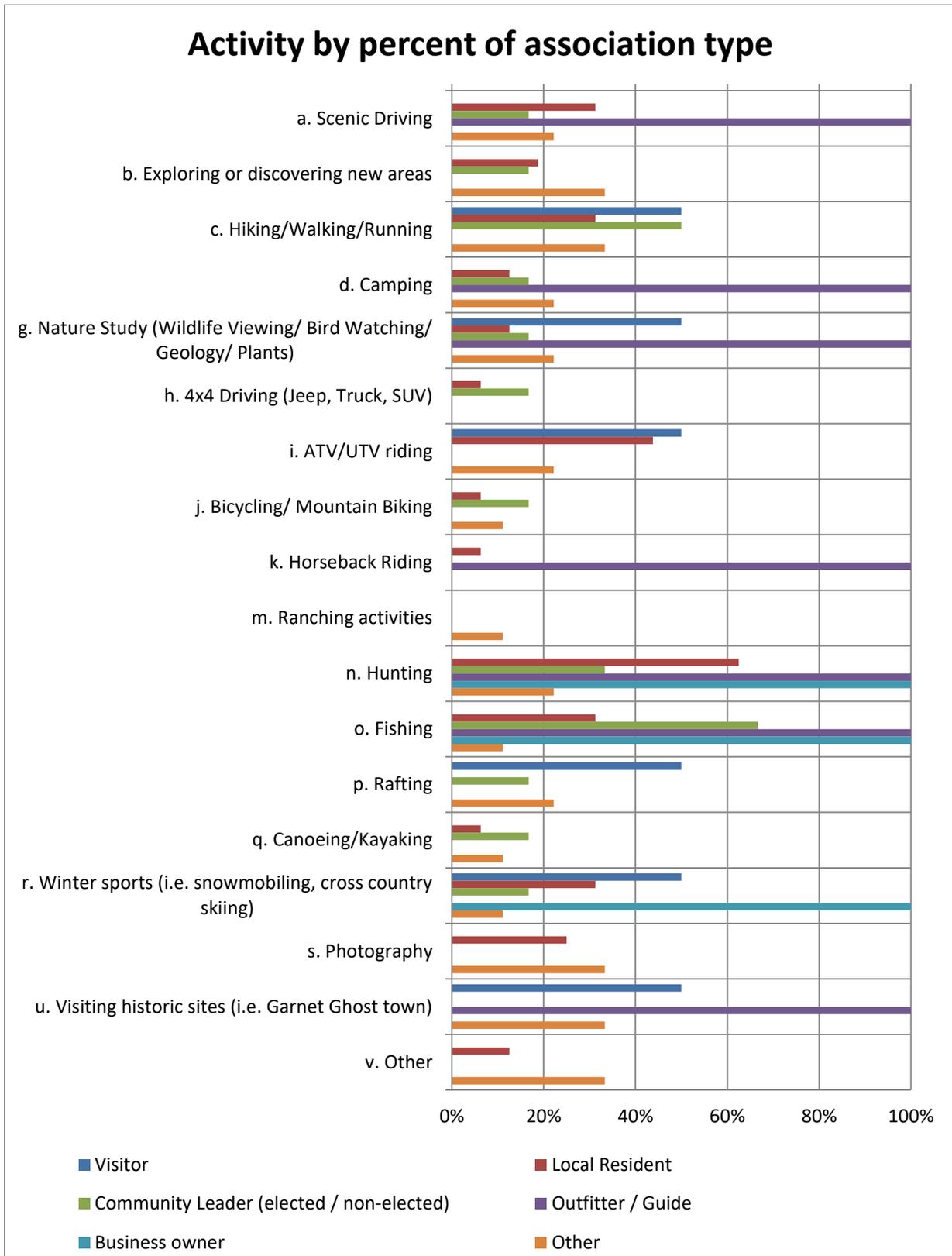


Figure 18. Personal benefit preferences by longevity of connection to MFO

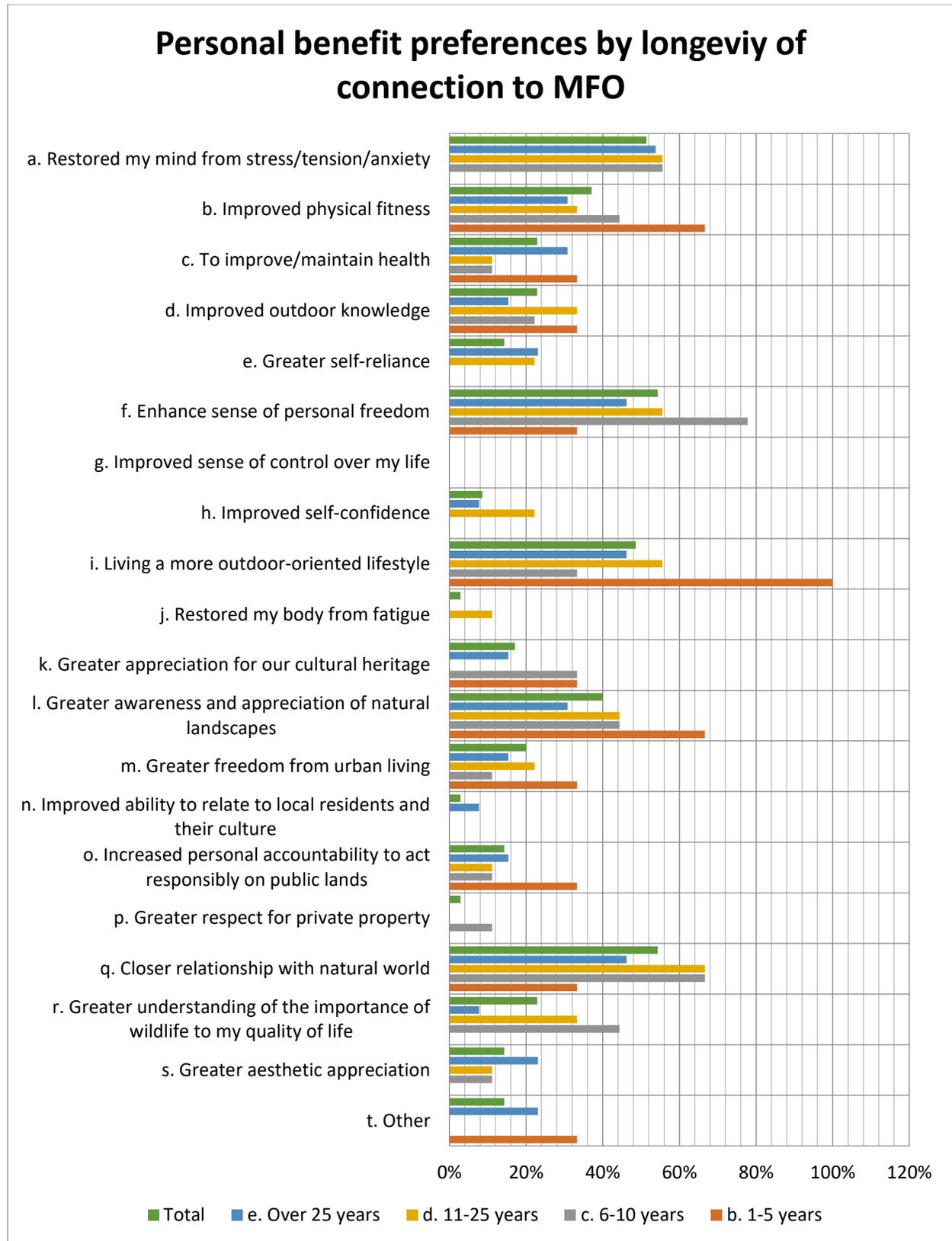


Figure 19. Personal benefit preferences by affiliation

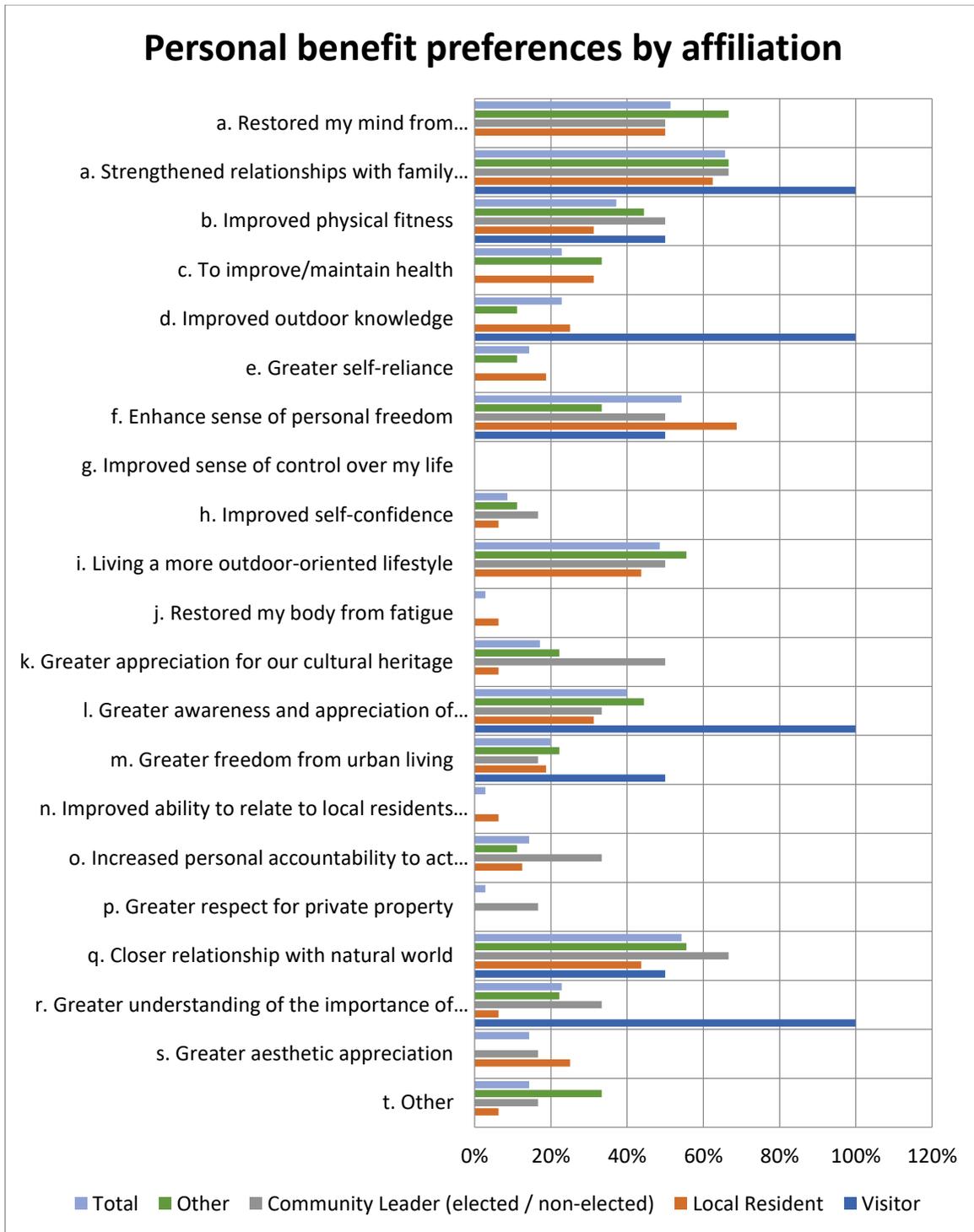


Figure 20. Household benefit preferences by longevity of connection to MFO

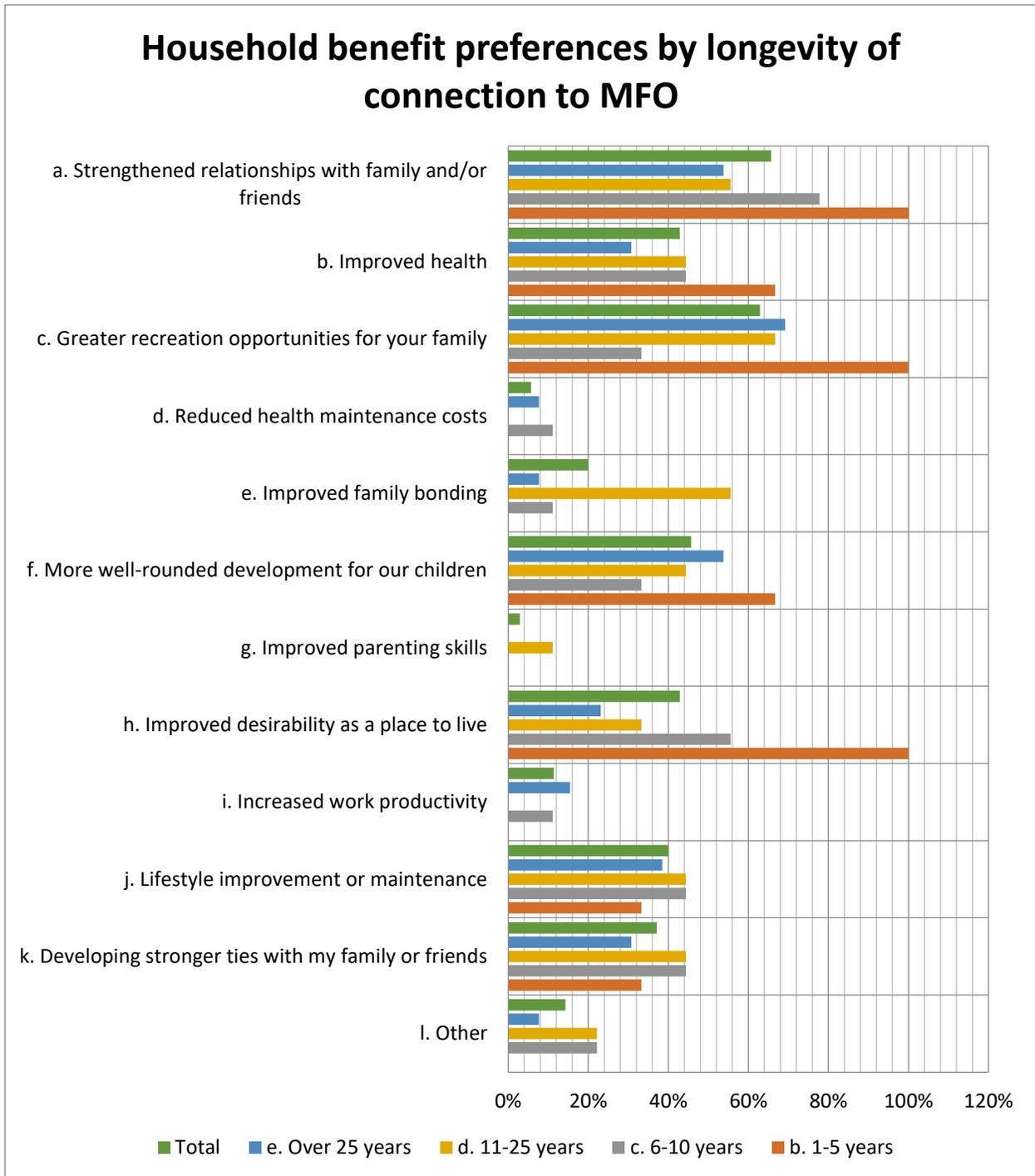


Figure 21. Household benefit preferences by affiliation

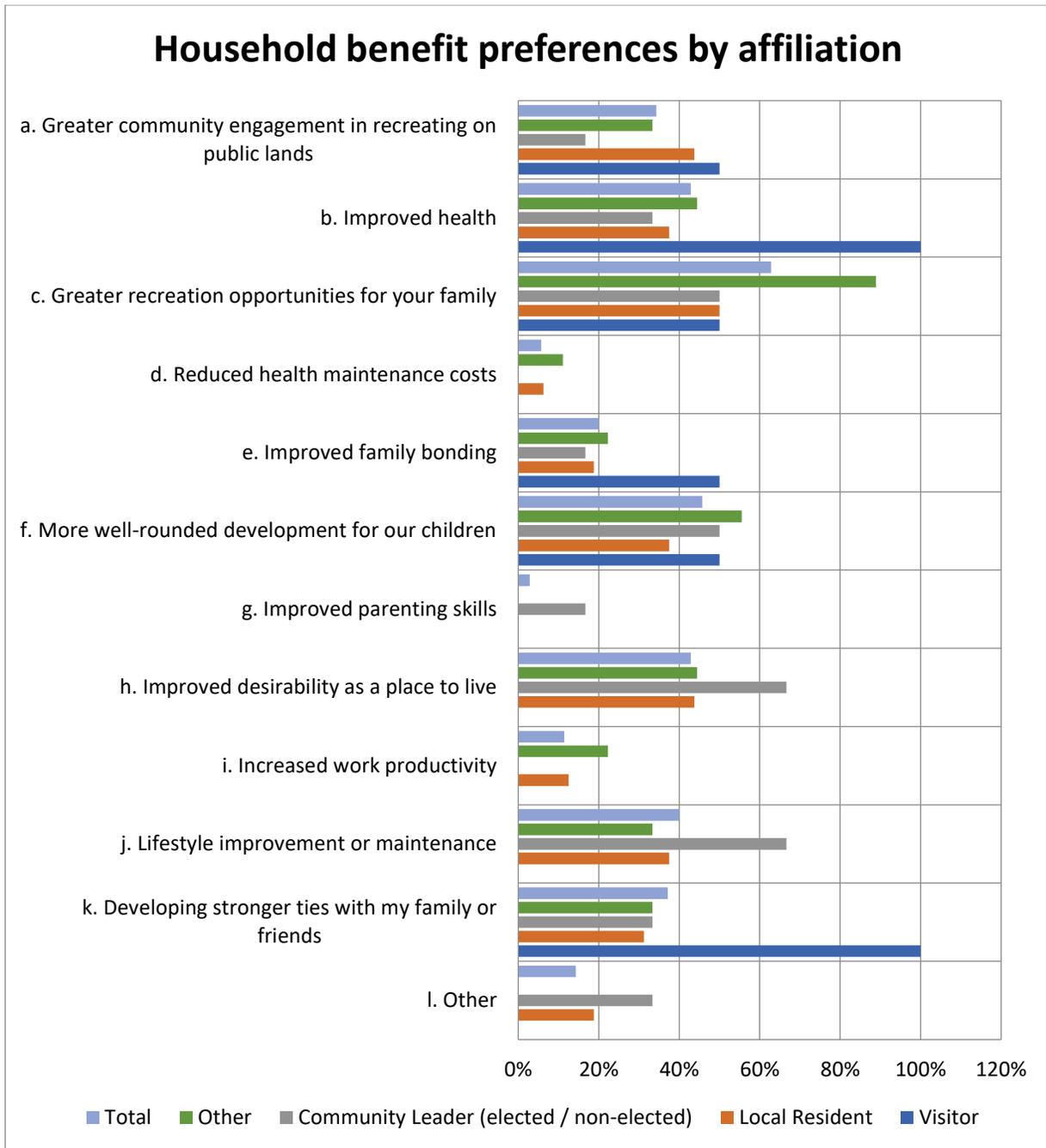


Figure 22. Community benefit preferences by longevity of connection to MFO

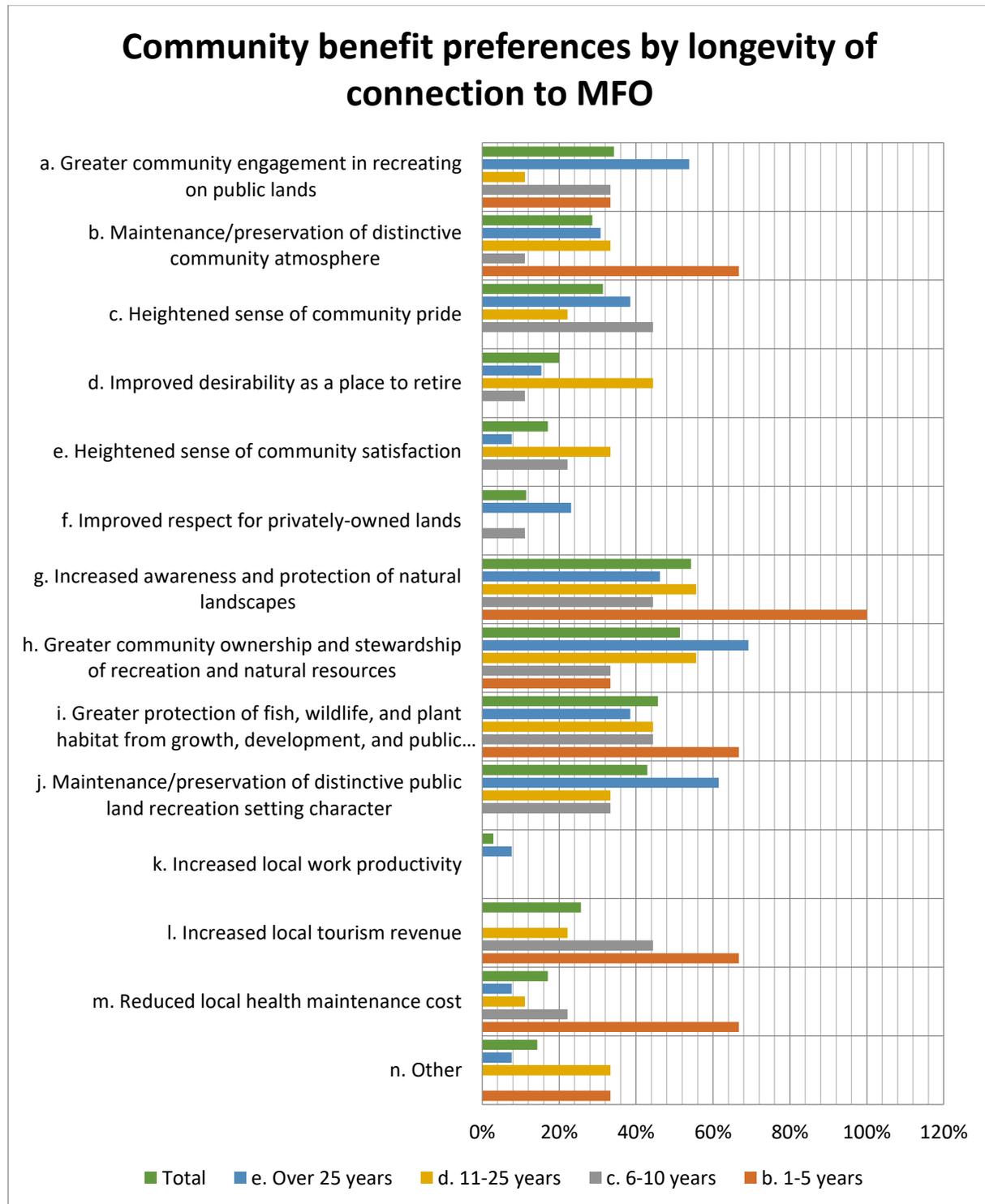


Figure 23. Community benefit preferences by affiliation

