

# Humans can survive without a smartphone

**Devin Rokyta/Moscow-Pullman Daily News**

Only a couple of decades ago - or 10 years ago for many of us - most Americans survived just fine without having a phone with them at all times.

Such mobile phones - back then they were just used for phone calls - were mostly status symbols.

Now, few of us leave home without our precious smartphones, and many of us can't even be bothered to take our eyes off of them while crossing the street - unless we take the time to snap a selfie - or put them away while we are driving. And that person sitting across from us during lunch and dinner, well, our phone and Justin Bieber's latest tweet are much more interesting.

There are few places we can go to escape the signals constantly being beamed to our devices, and the list of such places is always shrinking.

We all appreciate being able to get a signal when we need it - like when we have car problems in the middle of nowhere - but it is certainly nice to occasionally escape and get a break from the bombardment of phone calls and emails most of us deal with on a daily basis.

That's why many of us head to the woods for summer vacation. There we can't be bothered.

Unfortunately, according to a recent story by the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, many people would like to see those dead zones disappear. Rather than taking advantage of the scenery and all that nature has to offer, some campers also want to be able to catch the latest season of "Orange is the New Black" on Netflix, text their friends back in the "city" and read the latest news and tweets.

It is really a sad state.

Going into the wilderness should be about getting away from the constant connectedness of the 21st century and reconnecting with nature. It is about relaxing and recharging, and that can't be accomplished with the constant distraction of a smartphone.