

Carolyn Upton  
Supervisor  
Lolo National Forest  
Sent electronically

June 21, 2023

Dear Supervisor Upton,

We write to urge you to extend the comment period on the Draft Assessment and Species of Conservation Concern by 15 days or until July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The documents total more than 900 pages and deal with complex issues that are not easy to absorb and fact-check. Out of a four-year schedule, 15 days is not too much to ask in order for the Lolo National Forest to receive quality input from the public that the planning staff will benefit from.

If you deny our request we ask that you put in writing what you said at the most recent roundtable meeting: all comments received after July 8<sup>th</sup> will have equal weight and legal force with those received on or before July 8<sup>th</sup>.

We understand there will be additional opportunities for public comment but at this formative stage of development it is critical that the public be afforded an adequate period of time to evaluate the work of the Forest Service.

We request your reply as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Patty Ames, President  
Flathead-Lolo-Bitterroot Citizen Task Force

Jeff Juel, Montana Policy Director  
Friends of the Clearwater

Adam Rissien, ReWilding Coordinator  
WildEarth Guardians

George Nickas, Executive Director  
Wilderness Watch

Larry Campbell, Conservation Director  
Friends of the Bitterroot

Lance Olsen, Founder and Manager  
Climate and Biodiversity restricted listserv

Paul Sieracki  
Inland Empire Task Force

Connie Poten  
Footloose Montana