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First name: Patty

Last name: Ames

Organization: Lolo-Flathead-Bitterroot Citizen Task Force

Title:

Comments: From: Patty A <lunaswan415@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2023 9:56 AM

To: Upton, Carolyn - FS, MT <carolyn.upton@usda.gov>

Subject: Extension Request

Dear Supervisor Upton,

I appreciate all of the efforts you are making to engage the public and organizations in the Lolo Forest Plan Revision process. We are doing our best at this point to read, study and respond in a meaningful way to the Draft Plan Assessment. Please see the included document, which is a request for an extension for the comment period.

I am sorry I was not able to attend the meeting last week, I was attending my grandsons high school graduation in NYC. I hope you will get some vacation time this summer too.

Sincerely,

Patty Ames

President,

Lolo-Flathead-Bitterroot Citizen Task Force

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

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Conservation Concern by 15 days or until July 23 .

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
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roundtable meeting: all comments received after July 8 will have equal weight and legal force
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with those received on or before July 8 .

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 Jeff Juel, Montana Policy Director
Flathead-Lolo-Bitterroot Citizen Task Force Friends of the Clearwater

Adam Rissien, ReWilding Coordinator George Nickas, Executive Director
WildEarth Guardians Wilderness Watch

Larry Campbell, Conservation Director Lance Olsen, Founder and Manager
Friends of the Bitterroot Climate and Biodiversity restricted listserv

Paul Sieracki Connie Poten
Inland Empire Task Force Footloose Montana