

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/25/2021 9:46:59 PM

First name: Enno

Last name: Heuscher, MD

Organization: SBMEAR AMG Monitoring group for the GMUG

Title: Physician and Director, DMEA

Comments: With the introduction of wolves in the state, we need to protect acceptable habitat for them. We need to consider the wilderness addressed in Option D as the best option for wildlife. Once wilderness is removed, it can never be replaced. There are plenty of areas of the forest for logging and motorized recreation. The special management areas are useful as well to allow flexibility by the forest service to restrict certain inappropriate uses for certain areas, especially if it looks like they will be overused. With wolf reintroduction, we will see much improvement of riparian areas with better tree growth due to less ungulate overuse, also improving water quality and reduced erosion. Having more special use areas and more wilderness will also reduce wolf/rancher interactions. Other species will benefit from the better habitat: Goshawks, purple martins, eagles, hawks, mountain lions, red squirrels (food for the lynx) (as a result of the wolves reducing the coyote predatory population), snowshoe hares (better lower canopy and vegetation cover with healthier riparian areas), and of course the lynx population.