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Comments: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) already has rules in place for the operation of recreational and commercial drones in the National Airspace System. The United States Forest Service manages our national forests and should leave regulating the airspace above these public lands to the government organization that has the experience and authority to do so, the FAA. Flight over people is already prohibited by FAA regulations so another law or restriction prohibiting drones from "flying overhead any visitor to the National Forest System lands" is redundant. Also, because drones are considered "aircraft" by the FAA, drone flights are already prohibited by law in Wilderness areas (MA 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, and 2.2) so another law or restriction prohibiting these flights is again redundant. Also, since ski areas are leased from the Forest Service, ski resorts reserve the right (because of liability) to limit or restrict drone flights over the boundaries of their leased property. MA 4.1 (flight over mountain resorts) is another redundant restriction that is unnecessary. Plus, it adds another layer of approvals that commercial drone operators already must obtain to conduct flights over these areas. I oppose the other provisions in FW-STND-REC-09 because they are overbroad, unnecessary to achieve their stated goal, and will be virtually impossible to enforce.

The overall impact by electric powered drones on the forests and wildlife is negligible compared to manned aircraft and motorized vehicles, especially ATVs. Drones are flying cameras and have a unique way of capturing the beauty of public lands in a quiet and inoffensive manner. Capturing this beauty from a drone is a popular activity for motorized users traveling Forest Service roads, which incidentally are open to the public, and should not be arbitrarily restricted. I strongly oppose mandating restrictions on drone activity in the Forest Plan because it places yet another layer of rules on recreational and commercial drone operators that is completely unnecessary.