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Comments: The Flathead, Lolo, and Bitterroot National Forests are the heart of the U.S. Northern Rockies, comprising millions of acres of wildlands that belong to all American citizens. According to the Lolo National Forest, "Large, wild areas and a full suite of native species on the forest are nationally important and even merit global importance. The Lolo National Forest is situated within some of the wildest areas in the United States."

The Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests contain vital habitats for a unique array of rare and endangered fish and wildlife species including the grizzly bear, wolf, lynx, wolverine, bull trout, and cutthroat trout. The forests also provide connective corridors for animals to move back and forth throughout the region, which is essential to preserving genetic diversity for threatened and endangered species. These forests hold major headwater tributaries to the Columbia River, including the Bitterroot, Clark Fork, and Flathead Rivers. Protecting these forests is also vital to fighting the effects of climate change.

I love to camp and hike, my parents shared their love of wild places with me, and now I do the same with my own children. Our country has an abundance of riches when it comes to our National Parks, Designated wildernesses, Conservation Areas, and National Monuments. We must do our utmost to protect the lands, lakes, and rivers, or they could be degraded or damaged beyond repair.