

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/15/2023 4:11:48 PM

First name: zach

Last name: Whipple-Kilmer

Organization: Priscilla Peak Association

Title: Chair/Organizer

Comments: My name is Zach Whipple-Kilmer and I am writing from both the Priscilla Peak Association and The Thompson River Partnership. I am writing in regards to the species of concerns portion of the Lolo Forest Plan Update.

Specifically, we are writing in regards to the Sundance Ridge IRA. This area is being considered for Wilderness Designation and we are writing to ask this area NOT be managed as Wilderness.

This area contains the Barktable Research Natural Area and also includes desirable habitat for Mountain Goat reintroduction. We are working with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to reestablish a mountain goat population on Priscilla Peak and in Sundance Ridge in the future and a Wilderness designation would prohibit the use of helicopters and other mechanical devices to allow this to happen.

In a previous e-mail in regards to Wilderness, we are also working on restoring and maintaining the Priscilla Peak Lookout, which sits on top of Priscilla Peak. This designation would also prohibit the use of chainsaws and other mechanical items to restore the lookout.

Thank you,
Zach Whipple-Kilmer
Thompson Falls, MT