

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/8/2023 5:33:25 PM

First name: GERRY

Last name: MANEY

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Supervisor Upton:

As a Forestry graduate and a retired 40-year Forest Service employee in Region One, there are several areas of personal concern to me regarding the new Lolo Forest Plan.

Three areas of importance to me are as follows:

Whitebark Pine security and restoration should have a very high priority for the Forest. This alpine habitat is one of my favorite areas to hike, fish and camp in. These trees not only provide food for other species of concern, but they have a unique look and anchor position in the alpine environment.

Inventoried Roadless Areas need to be protected for future use and not destroyed by Congressional brinkmanship. Once these areas are opened to motorized use and development, their pristine distinction will be gone forever.

Lastly, the use of mountain bike and especially motorized E-bikes need to be managed so they are not a hazard to hikers and horse users. The excessive speed, recklessness and stealth on trails used by other users is a significant safety hazard. I have had several close calls and near misses with these bikes on Forest trails.

These bikes need to be limited to designated bike trails only and not co-mingled with other users.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues of highest priority to me.