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Comments: As a core team member preparing the 1986 Lolo Forest Plan and Ninemile District Ranger for 10 years I offer the following comments on the Proposed Action.

The proposed action fails to demonstrate the need for significant change from direction provided in the 1986 Plan. Standards and management areas have served management of the Forest for nearly 40 years. Minimizing the Standards by instead providing some guidelines is not reassuring that there will be accountability by the Lolo NF.

Any "Guidelines" should instead be "Standards " with firm commitments to the public.

Migration and connective corridors for wildlife need to be identified and managed for necessary components and relatively free of impediments such as roads and developments.

Special management areas, such as Rattlesnake National Recreation Area, need to retain special management emphasis and direction.

Except for major access roads, most roads built for forest management activities, should be recognized as resource liabilities and managed to reduce their adverse impacts to soils, watersheds, fisheries and wildlife.

All portions of all Roadless Areas need to be retained, as do existing proposed Wilderness Areas.

The Proposed Action should emphasize the reduction of the existing road network. This action should emphasize effective road closures rather than ineffective gates, including recontouring or obliteration.

All non motorized trails need to be retained as non-motorized, including E bikes.

Timber thinning needs to provide vegetative diversity at a small 20 acre scale and no longer thin larger acreages without retention of significant vegetative cover for optimizing a diversity of wildlife.

All remaining grazing allotments need to be eliminated as economically inefficient, impactive to riparian areas, and costly to administer.

The few remaining large blocks of wildlife security areas need to be both identified with special management emphasis and retained from new roads and trails. Existing roads and trails adversely affecting effectiveness of these security areas need to be removed.

The new Plan will be aspirational in nature rather than providing the firm guidance that the 1986 Plan provided. Without firm decisions with accountability to the public, the Plan will provide poor assurance to the public that their own public land will have the continuity that the 1986 plan provided.