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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on the Lolo National Forest planning process. As a long time resident of Montana [51 years] I have come to a deep appreciation of our public lands and the value they hold for many. I feel especially connected to the Great Burn land after years of backpacking and engaging in special projects. Those projects include weed pulling in Kelly Creek and litter/outfitter camp detritus removal from Heart Lake and the Leo Lake area.

As I have concentrated on the Lolo Forest for most of my hiking and camping, I see how critical this area is for wildlife connectivity and protection. I have seen wolverine tracks in Hoodoo Pass snow and know they need all the help we can give them. They are impacted by climate change and don't need any more challenges such as motorized intrusions in winter.

Areas set aside for wilderness are fragmented and migration corridors are increasingly just token designations. This planning process opens the way for decades of land use management and we can't afford to erode any more critical habitat for grizzly migration, wolverine denning sites, and safe harbor for various smaller forest creatures. I would also like to see attention/protection given to the vast community of mycorrhizae which nourishes a healthy forest.

Thank you for extending the Carlton Ridge Research Natural Area and retaining Recommended Wilderness for the South Fork of Lolo Creek. Lolo Peak and the Carlton Lake Basin area should be Recommended Wilderness based on adjacent designations. Nonconforming uses should be banned: no motorized use and no mountain biking. I would also like to see the Ward Eagle, Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork, and the Cube Iron-Silcox roadless areas managed as Recommended Wilderness.

We can't keep carving away at the current limited wildlife habitat by building roads, allowing motorized vehicles and mountain bikes, and other impactful projects such as "improved" campsites. We are the stewards of a limited resource and are responsible for the welfare of wildlife which is being pushed to the brink by climate change and humans who want a bigger and bigger slice of a shrinking pie.