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First name: Rex

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

Thank you for your work to preserve Missoula's scenic wild lands. As a third generation Missoulian, my family has deep roots in the beauty and aesthetic value conveyed by Missoula's landscape, which encompasses the region known as "The Rattlesnake." This region includes a Wilderness area, a National Recreation Area, and large swaths of Lolo National Forest as well. As a child growing up in Missoula, my parents took me camping in this National Forest and Wilderness, and hiking and biking throughout the Recreation Area.

I am a strong believer in the United States Forest Service's Multiple Use Mandate, or the idea that preservation, recreation, extraction, and other management authorities must be balanced by reasonable decision makers within the Service. I also strongly believe that some places just shouldn't be mined or logged, they are simply too important to a community.

While the Rattlesnake as a region is large and varied, any extractive activity within this region's parts would result in a loss of aesthetic purity and character of untouched perfection. These are part of the importance, the common understanding and love, that Missoulians at large hold for the Rattlesnake region. I believe that the Forest Service's decision to open some areas of the Rattlesnake region to the "most permissive use" would irreparably harm the value the Rattlesnake has to our community. I urge you to instead continue the Lolo National Forest's current management status for the region, and prevent any amendments to designate the Rattlesnake's boundaries for the "most permissive use". This would preserve the beauty and untouched aesthetic value that our family has enjoyed for generations, and I hope will enjoy for generations still.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Rex Koenig