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Comments: I am writing to express my disapproval of the Lolo NF 2024 LMP Proposed Action in the Greater Missoula Area. Specifically, the proposed change of the Rattlesnake creek corridor in the Rattlesnake NRA from "nonmotorized" to "motorized" use is both incompatible with current recreational use and inconsistent with the desired conditions for the area as laid out in the Proposed Action (Section 3.2.9, GM-NRA-DC).

The main Rattlesnake corridor is probably the single highest-use non-motorized trail in the entirety of Lolo National Forest. It is valued by many people for the opportunities it provides for walking, jogging, dog-walking, horse riding, and low-grade mountain biking. During a pleasant afternoon, the corridor is often full of families with small children, people with dogs and other pets, and bicyclists enjoying a flat, slow ride. Allowing motorized traffic along this trail would fundamentally change the character of the Rattlesnake corridor, and create enormous potential for conflict between user groups. OHV access is incompatible with the current recreational use paradigm in the Rattlesnake corridor.

Further, this corridor does not link with any other motorized trails or trail networks. I have recreated in the Rattlesnake NRA at least once a week for the past decade, and during this time, I have never once heard someone say that they desired motorized access along the Rattlesnake corridor. I have a very hard time imagining that there is sufficient demand for motorized access to justify the proposed change, and Lolo NF needs to fully explain the motivations behind the proposed action.

In short, allowing motorized use in the Rattlesnake corridor is incompatible with current use, would create user conflict, and is not justifiable given existing motorized recreation opportunities. The Lolo NF would be making an enormous mistake that would imperil the future character of the Rattlesnake NRA if this proposed action is approved.