

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/21/2024 5:20:13 PM

First name: Marc

Last name: Moss

Organization:

Title:

Comments: After reading the proposed action of the Lolo National Forest Land Management Plan, I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposal for motorized access to The Rattlesnake Wilderness Area in Montana. As an advocate for environmental conservation and sustainable outdoor recreation, I strongly oppose this initiative for several reasons.

First and foremost, The Rattlesnake Wilderness Area is a pristine natural habitat that harbors diverse ecosystems and wildlife. Introducing motorized access would disrupt the delicate balance of these ecosystems, causing irreparable harm to native species and their habitats. The noise and pollution generated by motorized vehicles would disrupt the peace and tranquility of the wilderness, detracting from the overall experience for hikers, campers, and other outdoor enthusiasts seeking solace in nature.

Furthermore, allowing motorized access to The Rattlesnake Wilderness Area sets a dangerous precedent for the future management of our public lands. Wilderness areas are designated as such to preserve their wild and untouched character, providing invaluable opportunities for solitude, reflection, and connection with the natural world. Opening up these areas to motorized vehicles undermines the very essence of wilderness and compromises the integrity of our public lands for future generations.

Additionally, motorized access poses significant safety concerns for both visitors and wildlife. The rugged terrain and unpredictable weather conditions of The Rattlesnake Wilderness Area make it unsuitable for motorized vehicles, increasing the risk of accidents, injuries, and environmental damage. Wildlife populations, already facing numerous threats, would be further endangered by the increased human presence and disturbance associated with motorized access.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the proposal for motorized access to The Rattlesnake Wilderness Area and instead prioritize the conservation and protection of this precious natural resource. Preserving the integrity of our wilderness areas is essential for maintaining biodiversity, ensuring sustainable recreation opportunities, and safeguarding the legacy of our public lands for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Marc Moss