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Comments: I've lived in Western Montana for 30 years and have seen many changes. When I worked for the Lolo Nat'l Forest, Missoula Ranger District, I worked hard to keep shared use opportunities for many user groups, including horsemen, motorized users, runners/hikers/skiers, and bikers. There is a time and a place for each that keeps wild places intact while allowing recreation with minimal user group conflict. I have also been involved in risk management implementation consulting, avalanche safety, and first responder training. Here are a few of the current proposals I would like to address:

Please significantly reduce the excessive size of the motorized buffer along Morrell Mountain Lookout Road (FR 4365) to protect non-motorized access to this terrain. There are many backcountry skiers in the area, and the combination of motorized users and skiers creates a safety issue for avalanche fatalities. The terrain is such that a motorized user could easily and unwittingly release an avalanche on skiers accessing it from below. This is a foreseeable hazard that has devastating implications if it is not acted on with humility and forethought.

I support the designation of a Semi-Primitive, Non-Motorized setting for Lolo Pass, Hoodoo Pass, Saint Regis Basin, Wisherd Ridge, Marshall Mountain, and Morrel Mountain. These popular areas provide opportunities for accessible human-powered backcountry skiing/riding day trips on public lands. Many of these areas also have avalanche potential that could endanger lives.

Please restrict motorized access to the Crystal Amphitheater on Lolo Pass, which is heavily used by the backcountry ski and snowboard community. I oppose FS 16675 as a Semi-Primitive Motorized setting. Please consider it as a Semi-Primitive, Non-Motorized setting to prevent snowmobile conflict. Please restrict motorized access into Saint Regis Basin. I oppose FS 18591 as a Semi-Primitive Motorized setting. Please consider it as a Semi-Primitive, Non-Motorized setting to lessen snowmobile conflict.

Thank you for making public comments on these issues, and I hope the desire to keep all users safe is paramount in making decisions and not simply user group preferences.