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Comments: CUBE IRON

The Cube Iron-Silcox/Cataract Roadless Complex should be Recommended Wilderness during this current 2024 Lolo Forest Plan Revision process based on my personal backcountry experiences and other important wilderness characteristics.

1)My wife and I backpacked for a three nights trip in the 4 Lakes Basin above Cabin Lake accessing this magnificent area along Trail 460. Our lake basin campsite was remote (we did not see any other people) and surrounded by a beautiful forest of tall, spire-like trees.

2)We day hiked the surrounding area including Cube Iron Mountain which provided unhindered views of surrounding wild backcountry. From the peak, we could see the Mission Mountains to the east, the Cabinet Mountains on a northwest heading, and views of the Clark Fork River Valley. The area's trail system provides access to mountain lakes, ideal for backpackers or day hikers looking for routes with several length options.

3)These roadless areas provide critical connectivity that serve as a corridor between the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness, Mission Mountain Wilderness, and the Bitterroots. Wildlife species in this area include elk, bighorn sheep, moose, mountain goats, wolves, fox, grizzly and black bear, lynx, bull trout, and west slope cutthroat trout.

4)The Cube Iron-Silcox/Cataract Roadless Complex contains clean rivers, impressive peaks, wildlife-rich alpine lake basins, offering a variety of challenging quiet recreation opportunities for those on foot and horseback.