

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/26/2024 7:56:25 PM

First name: Suzanne

Last name: Hendrich

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Living in Missoula, MT, I often enjoy the Lolo National Forest, fishing along Rock Creek, recreating along the Clearwater River corridor, going up Ninemile Road or exploring the Great Burn or the Idaho/Montana border wildlands. I am a Master Naturalist and convene a nature book club with the Montana Natural History Center, so have become more aware of the need for wildlands connectivity to preserve natural diversity. I am also attuned to the importance of mountainous areas for wildlife species diversity. This forest offers so many great opportunities for enhanced connectivity of wild spaces and species. In particular, I support the forest plan's inclusion of recommended wilderness areas, including the areas proposed by the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act to protect Blackfoot River tributaries, wild trout and grizzly habitat, and edges of the Swan Range. Also, recommended wilderness around Rock Creek such as the Quigg Roadless Area seems to me good for that fishery and for keeping Montana wild. I also appreciate that areas such as the Cube Iron-Silcox corridor and the Great Burn, on either side of I-90, being designated as recommended wilderness will help with wildlife connectivity and keeping these areas relatively untrammled. I am a dragonfly and damselfly lover, so I also appreciate keeping ponds and other wetlands within the forest in good shape to allow these species to flourish.

Thank you for the progress on revising the Lolo Forest Plan. I am one of many citizens who support our government's investment in a bright future for expanded wilderness and national forests well-managed to help assure that native species can thrive.