

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/27/2024 6:00:00 AM

First name: Christian

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Amanda Milburn,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the preliminary draft forest management plan for the Lolo National Forest. I live in Stevensville, Montana and I am an avid hiker, mountain biker and user of the Lolo National Forest. As the Forest Service plans the future of this important national forest, I am writing to urge you to consider adding more wilderness areas, adding more mountain biking options, and using science-based protections for our wildland ecosystems to safeguard our unique wildlife habitats and sustainable recreation.

Wilderness

1)Cube Iron Roadless Complex. I love to hike on the Four Lakes Loop trail. I would encourage the Forest Service to recommend this area for Wilderness, thereby protecting its wild character and wildlife connectivity between the Cabinet Mountains, Mission Mountains, and the Bitterroot Mountains.

2)The Great Burn. Id like to see the Forest Service continue to protect the recommended wilderness area that has been in place for almost 40 years.

3)Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act. Ive been x-country skiing in the Westfork Clearwater and hiked up to Grizzly Basin via Sunday Mountain. Its a breathtaking, wild piece of country up there. I would like the Forest Service to mirror the same protections the BCSA would bring.

4)Stony Mountain Roadless Area. As a fly fisherman, I find Rock Creek to be a special place. Id encourage the Forest Service to designate the Stony Mountain Roadless Area as a recommended Wilderness to protect the Rock Creek watershed and its wildlife for future generations to enjoy.

Trails

Id love to see more trails built and maintained, especially for mountain biking. As more people move into the area and outdoor recreation surges in popularity, trails around Missoula are becoming crowded and are in need of repair. Parking is often full at some trailheads, such as the main Rattlesnake and Blue Mountain.

I spend a lot of time in the Lolo National Forest and care deeply about how it will be managed in the coming years. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Christian Sawicki