

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/28/2024 2:22:50 AM

First name: Cathy

Last name: Balasky

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I appreciate that the proposed action has retained the 1986 Recommended Wilderness Areas as a starting point, and I would like to offer some suggestions for what the Forest Service should include in the plan alternatives.

The Great Burn is one of the wildest areas in the Lower 48 and provides vital habitat for wolverines, mountain goats, grizzly bears, and other sensitive species. It is critical that the Forest Service continues to designate the Hoodoo recommended Wilderness along the same boundaries that have been in place for nearly 40 years. I would also like to see the Ward Eagle and Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork roadless areas managed as recommended Wilderness to protect the areas incredible wild character.

I also support retaining the 1986 recommended Wilderness for the Lolo Creek and Quigg/Slide Rock Areas. The Forest Service should also consider recommending Wilderness for the Stony Mountain roadless area, which is also important for the Rock Creek watershed.

The Cube Iron-Silcox area is a wild roadless complex that provides excellent connectivity between the Cabinet, Bitterroot, and Mission Mountains. I would like this area to be managed as recommended Wilderness to protect species connectivity and ensure opportunities for quiet recreation.

Furthermore, I support the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act and would like to see all of the plan components of the collaboratively created agreement reflected in the Forest plans analysis.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed action and for all the work that has gone into the plan revision process so far.