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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing concerning the proposed action on the Lolo National Forest plan. To begin with I am glad that the new plan is beginning with the Recommended Wilderness designation that was put in place almost 40 years ago. My initial wish is that this area be converted to full Wilderness status, but this may be unreasonable. That being said, I hope the areas such as the Hoodoo RWA, Ward Eagle and Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork roadless areas be managed as recommended Wilderness. I consider connectivity between the areas mentioned, and other areas in the proposed plan to be of great importance.

More vehicular travel makes it more difficult for wildlife to maintain healthy populations. Keeping areas like Lolo Creek, Quigg/Slide Rock, Stony Mountain and the Cube Iron-Silcox should be recommended Wilderness for both wildlife connectivity and watershed issues.

I hope that plans built into the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act will be reflected in the new Forest plan.

I recognize that re-drawing a Forest Plan, such as you are doing and was done here in the Custer-Gallatin Forest not long ago, is a difficult task, even if the issues were not also contentious. We are not going to make NEW wilderness so I think we should do our best to conserve that Wilderness that we currently have.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for all the other efforts you are making to manage the Lolo Forest.

Yours,

Douglas Bartholomew
Bozeman, Montana