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Comments: Dear Lolo National Forest,

Please accept these comments on the draft plan.

Thank you for your continued hard work on the Lolo draft plan. I am glad that the 4 recommended wilderness areas listed in the 1986 plan are included again.

Some comments for improvement:

A wilderness designation for the Cube Iron Cataract area, which is vital wildlife connectivity and benefits forests and wildlife.

Prioritize wildlife habitat connectivity and corridor areas. These vital areas are a rare commodity and should be preserved with our strongest designations.

Recommend the Ward Eagle roadless area and also the Upper North fork Meadowcreek roadless area as wilderness. These outstanding areas deserve the wilderness designation for wildlife habitat value.

Fungal consideration in the forest plan is vital for forest health.

The Lolo national forest is perfectly poised to include the ongoing science of ectomycorrhizal fungi as a vital part of the new plan. Currently there is no mention of this in the draft plan. Science shows the importance of forest health and fungal relationships.

Any forward thinking plan will include the role fungi plays in forest health, and plan accordingly.

Minimizing soil compaction and realizing the dangers of rising soil temperatures are 2 ways that can lead to fungal mortality and should be addressed in the Lolo plan.

Please incorporate the new scientific understanding of the importance of Fungi to forest health and rising global temperatures.

Fungi must be specifically addressed in the new plan

Thank you again for all your hard work .

Carla Abrams