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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

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Lolo National Forest: Proposed Action

Comments due April 1, 2024

On January 31, 2024, the US Forest Service released the Proposed Action for the Lolo National Forest plan. This preliminary draft of the plan marks the first official phase of the process to revise the 1986 Lolo Forest plan, which is currently in effect. The Forest Service is now accepting public comments on the plan through April 1, 2024.

Photo courtesy Montana Backcountry Alliance

If you are a backcountry skier, rider, or general wild snow adventurer in Montana, chances are you have adventured in the Lolo National Forest. It encompasses some of our favorite go-to recreation areas: Lolo Pass, Hoodoo Pass, Saint Regis Basin, Wisherd Ridge, Marshall Mountain, and Morrel Mountain.

We have worked with our partners at Montana Backcountry Alliance and Wild Montana to review the Proposed Action and submit our comments together.

As part of our Alliance, it is critical the USFS hears from you at this early stage of the Forest plan revision so that the final plan has standards and designations in place that protect wildlife habitat, watersheds, and quiet, human-powered recreation opportunities.

LEARN MORE + COMMENT BY APRIL 1

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Your Voice Matters: Take Action by April 1

Comments must be directly submitted to the USFS [here](#). It is critical they hear from you at this early stage of the Lolo Forest plan revision. Be sure to share some experiences you have had in the Lolo, what you like to do there, and why the Forest is important to you.

Here are our suggested talking points:

I support the designation of a Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized setting for our favorite local spots at Lolo Pass, Hoodoo Pass, Saint Regis Basin, Wisherd Ridge, Marshall Mountain, and Morrel Mountain. These popular areas provide opportunities for accessible human-powered backcountry skiing/riding day trips on public lands. Please restrict motorized access into the Crystal Amphitheater on Lolo Pass, which is heavily used by the non-motorized access to this terrain .

I have back country skied at Lolo pass for forty years.

I can and do co exist with snowmobiles where they are allowed. They are usually friendly and courteous.

However, it is special to have days with non of the noise and fumes from those machines. That's why I am writing for the USFS to maintain these areas for no motorized use.

Steven Harrison