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First name: Cassandra

Last name: Rideg

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Once again, thank you for this opportunity to make comments. Though the National Forest Service (NFS) has done a fabulous job of including and guiding public involvement, we (my family and myself) are overwhelmingly disappointed in the lack of urgency the NFS and other government agencies are displaying to meet any federal goals of environmental forward thinking. The data is in; we know the steps we need to take, have to take, and have been directed to take, and yet the NFS is not complying with the Executive Order to deliver 30% wilderness into protection by 2030. We haven't even started. This Executive Order was a Presidential directive!

This leads me to my reasoning for making additional comments. Two other NGOs that we cooperate with and are completely aligned with have already made general comments on the entire Draft Plan very thoroughly. Our comments deal specifically with the Lolo National Forest (LNF) section where we live. The LNF surrounds the Ninemile Valley on three sides. The Ninemile Valley community is a small, primarily agricultural and residential community with tremendous respect and pride for the place we live and the public wilderness lands surrounding us.

Though most of the valley was logged in the past, we do have Old Growth stands, and now, there is much Mature Growth Forest. Mature Growth forests were recommended for protection by the Executive Order. The NFS should protect Mature Growth sections. Mature Growth should be considered and included in the new Draft Plan for LNF. If it is, I was unable to find a reference to it. This oversight is not acceptable. These areas are critical to the survival of the forest, flora, fauna, and the ecosystem as a whole.

We have a tremendous opportunity in the Ninemile Watershed to protect connectivity corridors. In recent years, we have seen many examples of this. Outside Glacier National Park and the Northfork of the Flathead River drainage, we had the very first reproductive wolves in Montana. We have Beaver moving in. There is potential habitat for lynx and possibly Wolverine. We also have seen more frequent Grizzly Bear presence. Earlier this week, a confirmed sub-adult Grizzly was confirmed in the valley. Ninemile Watershed is a well-documented, prime wildlife corridor.

Because of all this significant wildlife activity, rural character, and recreation use by the public, I have a difficult time understanding why Reservation Divide has dropped off the current Draft Plan as Proposed Wilderness. It appeared on a map from 2/6/2006 and in the documents used in preparation for the 2012 Planning Rule. This area is virtually roadless, and surrounding areas, such as sections of Ch-paa-qn Peak Road, are in the process of decommissioning roads by the FS. From 2006 to today, these forests have become even more mature than they were then. It is absolutely infuriating that Proposed Wilderness areas have been dropped off the new Draft Plan due to the current environmental crisis. Please correct this significant oversight. The NFS should designate all areas within the LNF with potential for Proposed Wilderness. This forest, if not protected now, will have little chance of surviving into the future. Thank You.