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Title:

Comments: I have the following grave concerns about the proposed revisions:

Substandard restoration goals

Often, the restoration work that the Clark Fork Coalition (CFC) has conducted in the last 5 years in the Upper Lolo Watershed has surpassed the Forest Service's objectives for the entirety of Lolo National Forest. For example: In the last 5 years, CFC partnered with the Lolo to remove 46 fish passage barriers and upgrade 7 fish passage barrier culverts in the Upper Lolo Watershed, while the Forest Plan revision proposes only removing or upgrading at least 20 existing NFS road-stream crossing structures every five years.

Vague and/or insufficient goals and objectives related to maintaining adequate stream flows through water storage.

Please include in this plan the use of a variety of storage tools (both natural and man-made) that increase our ability to capture and preserve crucial water supplies for use during the hottest, driest months. These storage tools could include natural storage solutions such as beaver or wetlands, or man-made storage infrastructure, such as strategically located alpine reservoirs (headwater storage).

Little focus on protecting vulnerable native species

This includes genetically pure cutthroat trout, which increasingly face hybridization with non-native species; and bull trout, classified as "Threatened" under the Endangered Species Act.

The proposed allowance of motorized recreation in the Rattlesnake, LaValle, and Butler Creek watersheds. No, no, no! The Rattlesnake is home to stable populations of bull trout, while LaValle and Butler Creek have genetically pure cutthroat trout. Existing roads already deliver sediment to these streams, but allowing much higher-impact motorized recreation would drastically worsen water quality and degrade these native fish strongholds.

Thanks for considering this letter.