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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I support many of the desired conditions outlined in the revision including riparian management, and the development of Conservation Watershed Networks.

I support free-flowing interconnected waterways, partnerships in stream restoration, restoration of beaver habitat, and the designation of Rattlesnake and South Fork Lolo Creeks as an eligible Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River.

I have a concern about the scale and pace of restoration efforts proposed, and that the goals are not set for the restoration needed.

Also, I support clearer objectives related to maintaining adequate stream flows through water storage. Hopefully a strategy that uses a variety of storage tools (both natural and man-made) to increase our ability to capture and preserve 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).

I am concerned about what I see as minimal focus on protecting vulnerable native species including genetically pure cutthroat trout, which increasingly face hybridization with non-native species; and bull trout, classified as "Threatened" under the Endangered Species Act.

I am also concerned about the proposed allowance of motorized recreation in the Rattlesnake, LaValle, and Butler Creek watersheds. 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 higher-impact motorized recreation will decrease water quality and degrade these native fish strongholds.

Thank you