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Comments: Comments on the Lolo National Forest Land Management Plan Revision #62960

I am glad to see emphasis on the following :

Taking action to restore free-flowing waterways, riparian areas, beaver habitat, aquatic connectivity;
Developing Conservation Watershed Networks and designating Rattlesnake & South Fork Lolo Creeks as 'wild, scenic and recreational rivers'.
Addressing legacy road systems on newly acquired lands.

However, I am concerned that the scale and pace of restoration efforts would be insufficient to achieve the above in the timeframe needed. More specifically:

The plan revision only proposes to remove/upgrade 20 existing NFS road stream crossings structures in 5 years. This is less than was accomplished in the last 5 years. This goal needs to increase.

Plans to maintain needed instream flows are inadequate. To address predicted increases in drought conditions and reduced snowfall in coming years, there is a need to make more use of watershed storage tools, especially natural tools like restoration of wetlands & beaver populations.

Protection of vulnerable native species needs to be addressed and strengthened - especially more protection for bull trout habitat and protection of pure cutthroat trout from hybridization risk. It is especially important to protect these fish from increased sediment from motorized recreation use. Hence the proposed allowance of motorized recreation in Rattlesnake, LaValle & Butler Creek watershed is a concern.

Please reconsider the above and strengthen the plan's commitment to watershed CPR (Conservation, Preservation and Restoration). Thank you for considering these comments.