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Comments: To planning team leader, Amanda Milburn, Thank you for all you do at the Forest Service. I'm grateful for all the careful considerations that have been placed to keep the integrity of Lolo National Forest. I'm not here to challenge any ideas on the forest plan, but rather to point out the neglected kingdom of fungi conservation in the plan. Fungi have been recognized as crucial interconnectors of nature. Fungi are fundamental to rich and sustainable ecosystems but there have been zero direct steps to explicitly include fungi in the policy framework. Fungi help plants tolerate drought, improve soil structure, and help invaders become more invasive (example, 1975 Mt. sentinel with an abundance of mycorrhizal fungi promoting a diversity of plants, to 2024 with a knapweed invasion and fewer fungi). Fungi establish a symbiotic relationship with the trees and plants in the area through an underground network that allows which improves plants' access to water and nutrients, in exchange for carbohydrates, decomposing leaves and rocks and turning them into soil which allows for a healthy foundation for the forest to thrive on. This symbiotic relationship is important because these organisms create ecosystems! without fungi, you just have separate components. expanding the scope of biodiversity preservation to include flora fauna and funga . Carving out a policy to protect them in this forest plan is crucial if it's neglected another year they become more susceptible to climate change and the communication under the forest floor would lose its potency as well. Thank you kindly for your consideration I understand the field of mycology is starving for resources to carry out large-scale assessments, but there are people who care, I care, and I would love to be updated in any way I could nurture this plan into fruition. Thank you kindly, Mallory Popp :)