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Comments: The Missoula area needs more access for groomed nordic skiing as user demand and population increases. In addition, as low elevation snow pack is diminished in the future, we need access to higher elevation terrain. The areas listed below would help increase the availability of high quality nordic skiing around Missoula in the future.

Lolo Pass: As climate change is warming our winters, we are unable to rely on consistent nordic skiing at our lower elevation locations around Missoula such as the local golf course. With this in mind, we recommend inclusion of grooming access on the Montana side of Lolo Pass, specifically expansion of groomed nordic ski trails between Lee Creek Campground and Lolo Pass.

Pattee/Dean Stone: We are seeing increased use at Pattee Canyon, and the current infrastructure does not meet the demand as stated in 3.2.8 of the PA. Improved and expanded parking infrastructure is needed as the demand for nordic skiing in Missoula continues to grow. We also recommend the inclusion of grooming and trailhead access in higher elevation areas on the Dean Stone Ridge and Skyline Ridge 2127-1 Trailhead and USFS lands and roads to the west and southeast.

Gold Creek: In order for users to access the trails we groom up the Gold Creek drainage, we need road access up 1.7 miles of East Fork Rattlesnake/FS 2112 Road from the intersection with Gold Creek Road. We hope the Forest Service will support us in establishing trail access in this area as a future climate-safe area for nordic skiing.