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Comments: I am writing to express my support of the following changes to the Lolo forest plan:

*Many of the desired conditions outlined in the revision, particularly those pertaining to aquatic connectivity, riparian management, and the development of Conservation Watershed Networks.
*Free-flowing interconnected waterways
*The importance of partnerships in stream restoration
*Restoration of beaver habitat
*Addressing legacy road systems on acquired lands (where much of CFC's work occurs)
*The designation of Rattlesnake and South Fork Lolo Creeks as an eligible Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River, which would safeguard them from many kinds of harm for years to come.

Additionally, I do have concerns which primarily revolve around the scale and pace of restoration efforts. These would have a cumulatively negative effect over the coming years including:

*Substandard restoration goals: Often the restoration work that the Clark Fork Coalition 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.
*Vague and/or insufficient goals and objectives related to maintaining adequate stream flows through water storage. Options should 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 - including 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. 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.