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Comments: To Whom It Concerns,

"Fungi make up one of life's kingdoms - as broad a category as "animals" or "plants" - and provide a key to understanding our planet. Besides their foundational ecological importance, the chemical accomplishments of fungi have long shaped human life. When fungi suffer, so do the humans and ecosystems that depend on them. Nonetheless, fungi have received only a small fraction of the attention they deserve and represent a meagre 2% of global conservation priorities," (<https://faunaflorafunga.org/the-initiative/>). Fungi are critical for forest health. A forest is intimately dependent on a strong, healthy, and diverse fungi population to thrive, resist insect and disease, and share nutrients. More and more scientific research is demonstrating that forest resilience to climate change is dependent on the fungi network. Fungi help forests absorb more carbon and help hold carbon for longer periods of time. It is critical that the USFS start documenting the fungi networks on National Forest and include fungi in the analysis of Forest Plans. The Lolo National Forest has a great opportunity to be a leader in the USFS by incorporating fungi in the Forest Plan. Fungi are critical to the future health of our forests. Fungi need to be documented and the diversity of fungi species needs to be protected.

Thank you.

Hannah