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Comments: The Mission Valley Back Country Horsemen (MVBCH) support the proposed action plan for the Lolo National Forest. Retaining the previously recommended Wilderness Areas is an encouraging start for this process.

The Lolo NF comprises an area of public lands of great importance to our members. Maintaining protection for previously inventoried roadless areas is strongly supported by our members. Maintaining healthy habitat and connecting linkages is necessary to sustain wildlife populations. Prohibiting motorized use and mountain biking in these critical wildlife corridors is necessary to protect wildlife and habitat. Wilderness status designation for all Wilderness Study Areas in the Lolo NF is the best solution for long term protection of these last remaining roadless areas.

Roadless areas of greatest concern for our MVBCH members include the following:

1. Retain the Cube Iron Roadless Complex as non-motorized backcountry. We support this area for Wilderness designation.
2. The Hoodoo Roadless Area should be protected in its entirety, across both Lolo and Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. Full Wilderness protection is needed for the roadless areas of the Great Burn and the String of Pearls to keep this area from getting fragmented by special interest motorized use.
3. MVBCH fully supports the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act
4. The West Fork Clearwater should be considered for Wilderness protection under the same standards used in the collaborative Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship act.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Potter, President

Mission Valley Back Country Horsemen