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Comments: Hello, Lolo National Forest Revision Plan Team. I am writing to you regarding the lack of Fungi in the revision plan. Fungi are a vital part of the greater ecosystem and should be held on equal regards to Flora and Fauna. There is a worldwide movement to establish the three F's Flora, Fauna, and Funga in terrestrial conservation and policy planning. The vast majority of plants, including trees for timber, need mycorrhizal fungal connections to survive and many animals also rely on fungi as parts of their survival strategies.

Fungi are mostly hidden yet are fundamental foundations that build and bind ecosystems together. They are crucial for building soils and binding life together by translocating nutrients and water to plants through their mycorrhizal fungal network. Fungi are one of the few organisms that can decompose lignin (white rot fungi) and cellulose (brown cubicle rot fungi). Which has its many benefits from carbon sequestration, water retention on the landscape and providing more available nutrients for other tropic levels. These same enzymes that fungi use to decompose woody debris can also be harnessed for remediation of toxic substances like polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (fuels/oils), dioxins, pesticides, herbicides to name a few. Multiple fungal species can bioaccumulate and absorb heavy metals into their cellular matrix decontaminating the environment. Fungi could be utilized by the USFS to help reduce slash piles and grow edible mushrooms for harvest. Introducing mycorrhizal fungi into the soil would help the process in decommissioning roads holding soil together.

The Fungal Kingdom is having a cultural moment beyond their environmental ecosystem services. Humans rely on fungi for food, medicine, as well as for spiritual connections. The common oyster mushroom contains all the essential amino acids that we require to survive. Some of the oldest and most used medicines are derived from fungi and new potential treatments are continually being discovered. Many human cultures understood the importance of fungi in a spiritual connection and can even treat mental health from PTSD to dementia. We have yet to fully unlock the potential for what funga can do to help the planet and us humans. Yet despite their utmost importance, fungi are continually overlooked. I want the Lolo National Forest to be on the leading edge of acknowledging and conserving these vital organisms in its policy decisions.

On a personal note, this Montanan utilizes fungi almost on a daily basis from sustenance to medicine and aesthetic beauty. Every spring and fall I first hunt wild mushrooms before switching tactics to hunt deer and elk. Yearly I sustainably pick and process a 100+ lbs of mushroom protein that feeds my family and community. Thank You for your time and consideration for including Funga with the same protections and policies that are afforded Flora and Fauna. We are unthinkable without fungi.

A dedicated citizen and frequent user of the wonderful Lolo National Forest

Egan Jankowski-Bradley