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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Robin Edwards, Realty Specialist, and the Lolo National Forest team,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed conveyance of the Regional Field Service Facility. I do not object in principle to the Forest Service consolidating its administrative and storage functions in Missoula, but I would like to raise several points I believe deserve careful attention before any sale is finalized.

1. Environmental due diligence before conveyance. Given the site's long history as a federal maintenance, storage, and vehicle facility, I would ask that the environmental assessment clearly document any history of fuel storage, equipment maintenance, or chemical use on the property, and confirm whether soil or groundwater testing has been or will be conducted. Any contamination should be identified and, where necessary, remediated prior to sale, so that liability and cleanup costs are not simply transferred to a future private owner or, indirectly, to the surrounding community.

2. Transparency on the future use of the site. The notice states that the property may be sold either directly to an identified purchaser or via competitive bidding, with the method to be determined later. I would ask the Forest Service to disclose, as early as possible, whether a specific purchaser or end use is already anticipated, and to clarify what land-use protections, easements, or restrictions-if any-will be attached to the deed. Given the site's location within Missoula, I would encourage the agency to consider whether any conditions can be placed on the sale to avoid outcomes with a significant environmental footprint (e.g., heavy industrial use, extensive impervious surface expansion, or loss of existing mature trees/vegetation on or bordering the parcel), and to prioritize buyers or uses compatible with the surrounding neighborhood and its stormwater and tree canopy goals.

3. Reinvestment of proceeds in conservation. I would ask that the Forest Service clarify how proceeds from this sale will be used, and would encourage the agency to direct funds toward land conservation, habitat restoration, or deferred maintenance on existing National Forest System lands in the region, consistent with the Forest Service's broader conservation mission.

4. Cumulative effects of the Missoula Area Master Plan. Since this conveyance is described as one piece of a broader consolidation plan, I would appreciate a clearer picture of the plan as a whole-which other properties are being considered for disposal or acquisition-so that the cumulative environmental and community impacts of the full plan, not just this single parcel, can be properly evaluated.

I appreciate the Forest Service's practice of soliciting public input on realty actions of this kind, and I look forward to reviewing the environmental assessment's responses to these points.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,