Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/18/2024 6:00:00 AM
First name: CTVA
Last name: Action Committee
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Please accept our comments dated March 17, 2024.

Thank you.

[Pasted from attachment:]

March 17, 2024 Attn: Amanda Milburn - Lolo Plan Lolo National Forest Revision 24 Fort Missoula Road Missoula, MT 59804 Re: Lolo National Forest Land Management Plan Revision #62960

Dear Project Team, We have assembled the following comments, information and issues from our members and other motorized recreationists for the project record. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments for the Lolo National Forest Land Management Plan Revision #62960. We enjoy riding our OHVs on primitive trails and roads in our public lands. All multiple-use land managed by the Forest Service including the Lolo National Forest provides a significant source of these OHV recreational opportunities. Moreover, the pandemic has reconnected visitors to our public lands as a critical way to counter the stresses of ever day life. Ninety-eight percent of these visitors are looking for multiple-use activities including OHV recreation.

We are passionate about OHV recreation for the following reasons: Enjoyment and Rewards of OHV Recreation [bull] Opportunity for a recreational experience for all types of people. [bull] Opportunity to strengthen family relationships. [bull] Opportunity to experience and respect the natural environment. [bull] Opportunity to participate in a healthy and enjoyable sport. [bull] Opportunity for relief from the pandemic and stress. [bull] Opportunity to experience a variety of opportunities and challenges. [bull] Camaraderie and exchange of experiences. [bull] We like to build and maintain trails for use by everyone. [bull] We enjoy observing flora, fauna, and landscapes. [bull] For the adventure and [ldquo]flow[rdquo] of it. Acknowledged Responsibilities of Motorized Visitors [bull] Responsibility to respect and preserve the natural environment. We are practical environmentalists who believe in a reasonable balance between the protection of the natural environment and the human environment. [bull] Responsibility to respect all visitors. [bull] Responsibility to use vehicles in a proper manner and in designated places. We are a locally supported association whose purpose is to preserve trails for all recreationists through responsible environmental protection and education. Page 2 of 3 [bull] Responsibility to work with land, resource, and recreation managers. We are committed to resolving issues through problem solving and not closures. [bull] Responsibility to educate the public on the responsible use of motorized vehicles on public lands.

Motorized recreation represents and supports many different visitor interests. Supporting motorized recreation is the best way to support diversity of uses and multiple-use. This over-arching fact should be adequately addressed in the purpose and need and adequately considered in the analysis and decision. We are representative of the needs of most visitors who recreate on public lands but may not be organized with a collective voice to comment on their needs during the public input process. These independent multiple-use recreationists include visitors who use motorized routes for family outings and camping trips, weekend drives, mountain biking, sightseeing, exploring, picnicking, hiking, ranching and grazing, rock climbing, skiing, camping, hunting, RVs, shooting targets, timber harvesting, fishing, viewing wildlife, snowmobiling, accessing patented mining claims, and collecting firewood, natural foods, rocks, etc. Mountain bikers have been observed to prefer OHV trails because we clear and maintain the trails and the trails have a desirable surface for biking.

Multiple-use also provides for the needs of physically challenged visitors including the elderly and veterans who must use wheeled vehicles to visit public lands. These multiple-use visitors use roads and motorized trails for their recreational purposes and the preferred alternative and decision should adequately consider motorized designations serve many recreation activities, not just recreational trail riding. We have observed and documented that 98% of the visitors to our public lands are represented by the activities discussed above (24 years of observation data). Ninety-eight percent of the visitors are there to enjoy activities associated with motorized access and motorized recreation.

We have been listening to and documenting significant issues and information from our members, families, and friends for the past 40 years. Following this letter is a presentation of significant issues and information that will help the team better understand the needs of the public that enjoys motorized recreation. The agency[rsquo]s decisions have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment related to motorized recreationists and the agency must give the entire human environment adequate consideration.

1. All of the existing motorized routes in the Lolo National Forest routes shown on the following map are used and needed by the public.

2. Past motorized closures on the Lolo NF have been significant and have created significant negative impacts on the human environment.

3. Additional closures are not reasonable.

4. There are significant non-motorized areas as shown on the map.

5. Additional motorized closures are not justified.

6. Additional motorized routes for 50" OHV and Motorized single track motorcycles are needed and justifiable. We are a locally supported association whose purpose is to preserve trails for all recreationists through responsible environmental protection and education. Page 3 of 3

7. Connectors should be added whenever possible to make old logging routes more enjoyable by creating loop opportunities.

8. Note that up to 12 Forest Service connectors are needed for the Fish Creek Multiple-Use system. A system map is available from Region 2 FWP or CTVA.

9. High clearance 4x4 routes with some challenge make good SxS routes. 10. Additional routes and areas for snowmobile use are needed and justifiable.

We are looking forward to your consideration of these significant issues and your use of them to develop a reasonable Pro-Recreation Alternative for the Lolo National Forest Land Management Plan Revision #62960. We appreciate your consideration of our comments. Sincerely, /s/ CTVA Action Committee on behalf of our 240 members and their families and friends

Capital Trail Vehicle Association (CTVA)1 P.O. Box 5295 Helena, MT 59604-5295 ctva_action@q.com Contacts: Gary Peterson, President Jody Loomis, VP Ken Salo, Land Use Action Attachments: Lolo National Forest Existing Motorized Routes Map