



Land Management Plan Revision

Greetings!
 I am reaching out as we approach the end of the comment period for the Lolo plan revision proposed action. Comments will be accepted through **April 1st**. We appreciate your review and comment! We have heard questions and concerns related to the plan content for the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area. At the bottom of this email, please find a leader’s message from Carolyn Upton about this special and important area.
 The team and Lolo staff will be focused on reviewing your comments in April. However, we are also pleased to be hosting several webinars in April – please see the table below. Later, in May, we look forward to hosting workshops on alternative development. Please join us! All event information can be found on the [Lolo Revision Web Hub](#).

What	When	Where
Webinar: Connectivity in Revision. We will begin to diver deeper into the concept of connectivity for the revised plan. Revision team wildlife ecologist TJ Fontaine will present the status of the USFS connectivity analysis and how it may be incorporated into the plan revision.	4/16/2024 5-7 pm	Virtual Teams meeting, at this Meeting Link . Or join by phone, audio only: 1-202-650-0123, Phone Conference ID#: 450 220 354#
Webinar: Supplemental Information. The revision team will share new information available on the website. This includes updated Recreation Opportunity Spectrum maps, the wildland urban interface (WUI) map, the 2006 draft plan, and a new layered map product. We will also discuss clarifying information on the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area.	4/25/2024 5-6:30 pm	Virtual Teams meeting, at this Meeting Link . Or join by phone, audio only: 1-202-650-0123, Phone Conference ID#: 142733973#

If you have additional questions to help you with your comments on the proposed action, please contact our team. Thank you for your continued interest in this process!

Kindly,
 Amanda Milburn, Revision Team Leader

Leader's message from Carolyn Upton, 3/26/2024

As the comment period draws to a close, I continue to be impressed and grateful for the hard look that you are taking on the Lolo plan revision proposed action. I have heard concerns and public dialogue related to the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area (RNRA). I am reaching out to you to clarify the intent of the proposed action direction with respect to this special and important area.

First, I must emphasize that it was not the intent of the proposed action to substantially change the current management of the RNRA. While I am still considering the nuances of this issue, I believe that some of the concern is related to the way that the proposed action is organized to meet the intent of the 2012 rule with respect to integrated plan content.

In the proposed action, the RNRA has its own delineation with plan components in the Greater Missoula Geographic Area section (Chapter 3). In addition, management areas (Chapter 4) overlay this, as does the Forestwide desired recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) (Chapter 2). I can appreciate that this structure of overlapping allocations is complex. To be clear, the most restrictive plan components apply when allocations overlap. The team and I are taking a harder look at all plan content relevant to the RNRA to ensure that the management guidance is clear and fully supportive of the law that established this area (Public Law 96-476, Rattlesnake National Recreation Area and Wilderness Act of 1980).

I have also heard concern that 1986 Appendix O4 and the *Rattlesnake National Recreation Area and Wilderness Limits of Acceptable Change Management Direction (1992)* were not included in the proposed action, indicating that this guidance is being removed. Again, this was not the intent. The revised plan provides broad, overarching guidance. Specific management plans, such as the RNRA and Wilderness Limits of Acceptable Change Management Direction, are not part of the plan itself. However, they will be recognized in the revised plan and continue to be used appropriately to guide management of this special place.

Lastly, there is a connection with the issues I addressed in my previous leader's message with respect to the mapping of desired recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS). The proposed action ROS shows a semi-primitive motorized corridor along a closed, administrative use-only route. The proposed action did not intend to indicate this corridor as open to motorized use.

I look forward to reading your comments and working with the team to improve the clarity of plan content for the RNRA. I am carefully evaluating all the information to consider how best to ensure that the RNRA is managed appropriately and that the plan is organized in a clear way. As I have previously stated, I am committed to ongoing and meaningful engagements throughout this process.

Remember, scoping comment period will end April 1, 2024. Please visit the Lolo Plan Revision Web Hub (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/lolo/planrevision>) to comment using our online tool, find supporting materials and information, and the schedule of engagement opportunities. We plan on continuing engagement with you in April and throughout the spring to review what we heard in scoping and to share how we are developing alternatives for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Stay tuned!

Again, thank you for your time, attention, and insightful input.
- Carolyn Upton, Forest Supervisor

Thank you for your interest in the Lolo National Forest Land Management Plan Revision. Check out our **Web Hub** (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/lolo/planrevision>) for the latest information! Please email your inquiries to SM.FS.LNFRevision@usda.gov or call 406-329-3430.

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