

THE VISION OF THE LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

We care for the land in ways that emphasize healthy vegetative communities, clean water, stable soils, and sustainable populations of fish and wildlife. Through our land stewardship we provide a flow of goods and services, such as recreation and wood products. We preserve and interpret our rich history.

We are responsive to, and provide timely service for, the public. We build partnerships and contribute to communities, actively involving them in Forest decisions. Through monitoring and feedback we adapt our stewardship practices and promote them through conservation education. We are a progressive Forest with a diverse, highly skilled and valued workforce that gets things done. Lolo employees are innovative, efficient, respectful, and recognized for their excellence and hard work.

The following analysis is a project specific application of the Lolo vision and Land Management Plan. During the Fires of 2000, approximately 74,000 acres of the Lolo National Forest burned. Since that time we have been working diligently not only to assess the effects of the wildfires, but also to determine the existing condition of all resources within the burned areas on the Plains/Thompson Falls, Ninemile and Superior Ranger Districts. Through these assessments and subsequent analyses we have identified many opportunities to bring these lands toward the desired future condition through restoration activities. In addition, we have identified opportunities to provide wood products for use by people.

As you will see in the following Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), we have analyzed the effects of not taking any action in these areas, as well as the effects of different management activities. We have worked long and hard to address the wide range of issues and viewpoints that were used in developing the alternatives.

The proposed activities of this project blend with ongoing ecosystem management efforts across the National Forest and on adjacent private and state lands. These efforts include watershed restoration, weed spraying, wildlife habitat improvement, fuels reduction, road stabilization, and vegetation management.

Thank you for helping us to develop this project and continuing to stay involved with the Lolo National Forest.

Deborah L. R. Austin

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