

About the Lolo National Forest

The Lolo National Forest is located in the Northern Rocky Mountains of western Montana (figure 1). It includes nearly 2.1 million acres of public land. The Forest Supervisor's office is located in Missoula, Montana, with Ranger District offices in Missoula, Superior, Plains, Ninemile Valley, and Seeley Lake. The Forest surrounds the growing urban community of Missoula, and adjoins many rural communities in western Montana.

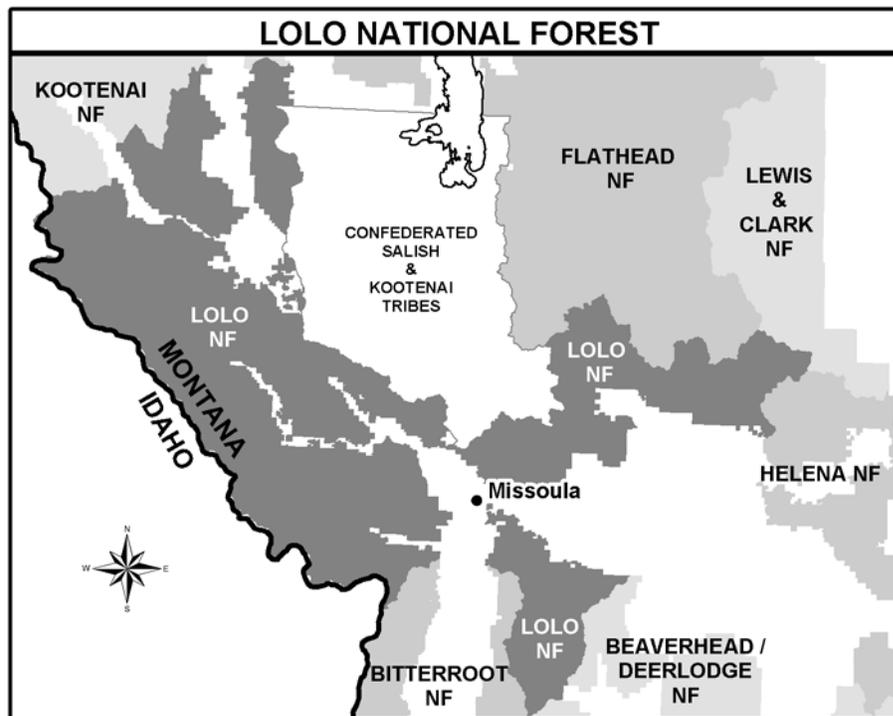


Figure 1: Vicinity Map of the Lolo National Forest.

Located west of the Continental Divide, the Lolo National Forest is influenced by both continental and maritime climates. These climates, combined with a variety of soil types and varied topography, provide for a wide range of environmental gradients producing forests, grasslands, and shrublands of high ecosystem diversity and connectivity.

The Lolo National Forest is home to many plants and animals. The Forest's ecosystems range from areas of dry, ponderosa pine and moist, western red cedar in the valley bottoms to cold, high elevation, alpine mountaintops above the timberline. This diversity of environments is home for 17 conifer and 5 hardwood tree species, over 200 bird species, at least 20 species of fish, over 60 mammal species and an estimated 1,500 plant species including 250 non-native plant species. A majority of the species that occur in the northwest