



# How can I provide input during the revision process?

## Lolo Revision Public Input and Comment Opportunities

The Revision Team and Lolo staff welcome input throughout the plan revision process. You will find information on engagement events and comment periods as they arise on the Revision Web Hub (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/lolo/planrevision>). You may also email the Revision Team with inquiries at: ([SM.FS.LNFRevision@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.LNFRevision@usda.gov)).

## Public Engagement and Input Opportunities

Outside formal comment periods, engagement opportunities to consult, involve, and collaborate with you will be offered. Input received during these events (such as workshops) prior to scoping will be summarized in a public engagement summary document. The team and responsible official will consider this input in the development of the proposed plan for scoping. Input gathered during engagement opportunities after scoping will be considered in the development of alternatives, the environmental analysis, and decision.

## Comment Periods

Comment periods will be offered as required at key milestones in the process and will be advertised in advance. Comments submitted during these periods give parties standing to participate in the objections process. Table 1 provides a list of key milestones, and the anticipated timing and length of the comment period. Milestones that align with comment periods include:

### **Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers inventories.**

Comments received will be used to refine the inventories, which will then be presented as part of the draft assessment.

**Draft assessment.** Comments on the draft assessment will be used to develop the revised assessment. A potential species of conservation concern list will be

made available for comment concurrently with the draft assessment.

**Scoping on proposed plan.** The scoping package will include a complete preliminary draft revised plan and monitoring plan, preliminary need to change, wilderness evaluation, and wild and scenic rivers eligibility study. Comments will be used to develop alternatives and the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS).

**Draft environmental impact statement and plan.** The review package will include a draft plan revised based on scoping comments and a draft environmental impact statement with alternatives and effects analysis. Comments will be addressed in a response to comments section and published in the final environmental impact statement and plan.

**Final environmental impact statement and plan, draft record of decision.** The release of the final environmental impact statement and revised plan will begin the objections process. Those that have commented previously will have standing to object. Following the period to file objections, the process includes an administrative review and response as well as objection resolution meetings. Following the completion of the objections process, the final decision and plan will be released.

**Table 1. Anticipated comment periods for the Lolo Plan Revision (subject to change)**

<b>Estimated Timing</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Expected Comment Period</b>
Spring 2023	Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers draft inventories	30 days
Spring-Early Summer 2023	Draft assessment and potential species of conservation concern	30 days
Winter 2024	Scoping	60 days
Winter 2025	Draft environmental impact statement and draft plan	90 days
Summer 2025	Final environmental impact statement and plan, draft record of decision	60 days
Fall 2025 – winter 2026	Objection process, final decision, and plan	60 days

are open (Table 1), a link to CARA will be posted to the Revision Web Hub. CARA allows us to collect, organize, and consider many comments efficiently. This is an important and process and can be quite lengthy. It helps to consider the following tips:

- Our preferred commenting method is the CARA webform.
- You can write comments into the field provided in CARA or attach a document. If you attach a document, please convert it to a PDF format if possible.
- Please refrain from using italic, bold, highlighted, or underlined text. This formatting is often removed in the upload process.

If CARA does not work for you, you may come into to our office or mail your comments to us:

**Lolo National Forest Supervisor’s Office  
Attn: Lolo Plan Revision Team  
24 Fort Missoula Road  
Missoula, MT 59804**

## What makes a useful comment?

The comment process invites you to share your perspective and knowledge to help the responsible official make an informed decision. The comment process does not constitute a vote. Comments are most useful when they provide the “why.” This helps us better understand the underlying interests and context for comments. Similarly, if you submit scientific literature, it helps if you let us know how it relates to the review material.

## How does the Forest Service use my comment?

Forest Service staff read each comment submitted. The content of each letter or message is summarized into themes that help identify issues, areas of commonality, and areas of disagreement.

## Who else will see my comment?

Your comments become part of the public record for the plan revision. The Revision Team will publish a public reading room online that allows everyone to review submitted comments. In addition, the analysis and response to public comments will be published in the final environmental impact statement.

## How do I comment?

The best way to submit your comments is through our online comment database, the Comment Analysis and Response Application (CARA). When comment periods