



April 16, 2026

Mr. Bader,

Thank you for your letter. Although the decision for the North Seeley Wildland Urban Interface- Highway 83 Project (Highway 83 Project) was signed on July 11, 2025, we would like to provide a summary of where the requested information can be found on our public website. All documents referenced are available on the Lolo NF Public Website, North Seeley Wildland Urban Interface- Highway 83 Project:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r01/lolo/projects/64580>

The use of a Western Firesheds Emergency Action Determination (EAD) for the North Seely Wildland Urban Interface-Highway 83 Project was approved by the Secretary of Agriculture April 11, 2023. Information about the use of the EAD authority was provided in the scoping document (Highway 83 Scoping Final) and opportunity to comment was provided in a 31-day scoping comment period that began on August 29, 2023. Information about the use of the EAD authority was provided in the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA, p.1) and an EA comment period was provided beginning April 10, 2025. Information about EAD was also provided in the Highway 83 project Decision Notice (DN p. 24).

The mountain bike trails authorized in the Highway 83 Project (DN, p. 8) were included and analyzed in the Environmental Analysis (Final EA, pp. 2, 14, 21-22, 34, 37, 45-46, 50, 53-54, 59, 62, 70-71, 90). A 30-day comment period for the draft EA, which included the addition of the mountain bike trails in the purpose and need and EA analysis, began April 10, 2025. The legal notice (Legal Notice Published) and a copy of the comment period cover letter (Comment Period Cover Letter) are provided on the public website. No comments were received during the project scoping and EA comment periods from Mr. Bader and the other authors of the letter sent to the Lolo National Forest (April 8, 2026). However, comments from the public associated with both the use of EAD authority and the addition of the mountain bike trails were received during the EA comment period and addressed by the Lolo NF. Responses to comments received during the EA comment period are included in Appendix D of the Highway 83 project Decision Notice beginning on page 79.

Effects to wildlife from mountain bike trails were analyzed in the Environmental Assessment (Final EA, pp 40-63) and in the Wildlife Specialist Report (Updated Wildlife Report, June 2025). Compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was analyzed in the Biological Assessments (Bull Trout BA, Terrestrial Wildlife BA, Wolverine BA) and a response from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was provided in the Biological Opinion sent June 18, 2025 (USFWS BiOp). The BA determined that the Highway 83 project may affect, likely to adversely affect Canada Lynx, lynx critical habitat, and grizzly bear. The USFWS concluded that the project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of grizzly bears and lynx and is not likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated lynx critical habitat.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any additional questions you may have about the North Seeley Wildland Urban Interface - Highway 83 Project.

BEN JOHNSON
FOREST SUPERVISOR