



**Bitterroot
National Forest**
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**Lolo
National Forest**
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Missoula, MT 59804

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests Issue Determination Regarding Bitterroot Resort Proposal”

Hamilton, Montana, July 2, 2008 ---- The Bitterroot and Lolo National Forests’ review of the Bitterroot Resort’s development proposal identified four concerns which prevent the proposal, as currently designed, from meeting the required screening criteria.

In late March the Forests received a proposal for the development of Nordic skiing, alpine glade skiing, backcountry skiing and summer mountain biking opportunities on National Forest System lands. Forest Supervisors Dave Bull and Deborah Austin met with officials from the Bitterroot Resort on Friday, June 27th to explain that due to the four primary concerns, the current proposal will not be evaluated further.

The four primary concerns are related to lynx habitat, big game winter range, soils and water, and visual quality.

continued

Since the Bitterroot Resort's proposal did not pass the first level of screening, no further action will be taken by the Forest Service. Bitterroot Resort officials may submit a new or revised proposal that is designed to address the concerns identified in this initial screening process.

The Bitterroot Resort's proposal and accompanying maps are available on their website at <http://www.bitterrootresort.us/>.

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