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First name: Annie

Last name: Buchwald

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 5079 Dragon Fly St.

Address2:

City: Bozeman

State: MT

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 59718

Country: United States

Email: flutterby4x@yahoo.com

Phone: 619-518-4758

Comments:

I am STRONGLY recommending Plan D. I am PLEADING you to please settle on that option! Plan D provides the most coherent wilderness plan (in the true meaning of the term) that will do the best job creating a buffer for wildlife and the habitat. The other alternatives break up this valuable wilderness, creating an edge effect everywhere there is a road or trail added. These edges change the habitat - adding sunlight, wind and drying effects where there were none before. This weakens the plant life and the consequences spread, broadening the edge effect. Climate change is already challenging the health of the habitats that support our wildlife. We need to keep this intensely valuable wilderness as undisturbed as possible, allowing it to provide clean air and water for us, to continue being a valuable CO2 sink, and to provide safe refuge for our amazing wildlife. I love trail riding on my bicycle, but there are SO MANY trails for me to ride without disrupting this wilderness. I would be happy to limit hiking trails in this wilderness but foot and horse traffic are slow and the stress impact on wildlife is so much less than bicycles. Fast moving modes of transportation extend the depth of impact and cause much greater stress on animals. And now, electric bikes are being included on our trails. This will add an incredible volume of people riding on these trails as it will open up the use to the older population (I'm one!) and people with lesser athletic abilities. The impact will be extremely disruptive to wildlife and the trails themselves.

Wildlife does not just please our souls! Birds soften and transport seeds through their digestive systems, rodents do that and aerate the soil, herbivores recycle nutrients and can also transport seeds, predators keep the herbivore populations genetically stronger and under control and away from stream beds so water flows better by reducing overgrazing of bank vegetation. Wolves and cats are particularly helpful in controlling wasting disease and other illnesses that could be a threat to livestock by culling the sick from grazers.

We do not get another chance! Once you take away wilderness, you don't get it back! We need to plan for perpetuity. We are not separate from nature, we are part of it! If we don't take care of nature, in this case, by protecting our slowly disappearing wilderness, we will all suffer. PLEASE keep this precious area in tact and with the minimum amount of human disturbance as possible. And PLEASE limiting the access to slow quiet use - foot and horse travel only. As I mentioned before, there is a mind-boggling selection of biking trails already available. Please consider the impact of fast moving bikes, and the huge increase in volume e-bikes will add, and vote against plan C. We do not get this chance again. EVER! Please make a choice for our future.