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Comments:

I live in Bozeman and frequently mountain bike, hike, ski, and camp in the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The recreational opportunities and outdoor-activity-friendly lifestyle are a major part of what drew me to the area and what keeps me here.

I support the Gallatin Forest Partnership agreement. In an area with many disparate user groups, direct interaction and compromise between these varied stakeholders is a representative process for balancing the desires and values of the entire community of users. Adopting these citizen-crafted compromises sets a positive example for civic engagement in the planning process. I also support the Outdoor Alliance proposal.

I have ridden my bicycle in the Lionhead area, and support keeping that area open to bicyclists. Bicyclists have devoted hundreds of man-hours to maintaining the trails in this area and keeping them clear of deadfall. The trails there offer access to stunning alpine scenery unparalleled in the rest of the area, and bicycling provides a low impact way to reach these remote areas.

Recommended wilderness areas should continue to be managed to allow bicycle access. Allowing bicyclist access on existing trails, many of which have been used for decades, will not disrupt the wilderness character of the areas. Automatically changing management of recommended wilderness to match that of congressionally designated Wilderness, without actually receiving such a designation, bypasses the appropriate legislative process.