

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 5/22/2019 12:11:49 PM

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Comments:

I am a long-time resident of Bozeman and a regular trail user in the Custer Gallatin National Forest. My time on the trails is spent primarily on a mountain bike and I have enjoyed the access that cycling has afforded me in this beautiful and unique region. I am the father of a 9-year-old son who thoroughly enjoys his time exploring wild lands and who, through the use of mountain bikes to travel through them, has developed a remarkable sense of respect and reverence for the forests that surround his home.

I am confident that mountain biking is a low impact recreational activity and have been a party to the efforts undertaken by mountain biking organizations to educate users on appropriate trail use that respects other trail users and the forests themselves. Further, mountain bike groups have been responsible for trail construction and improvement projects enjoyed by a variety of trail users.

I support the Gallatin Forest Partnership Agreement as it represents not only a broad range of user group interests but also places a high priority on forest health and sustainable management practices. Additionally, I believe that the Lionhead area should be managed as a Backcountry Area, consistent with its current use and allowing for continued access to a user group that not only appreciates the area but has worked hard to improve access for all users. Please continue to manage Recommended Wilderness Areas to allow bicyclists in order to maintain access for a dedicated and low-impact group of trail users and to mitigate usage pressure on front country trails that are already seeing unprecedented use.