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5/28/19

We are writing this letter of support for the Forest Plan Revision, Option C including all of the Gallatin Forest Partnership. This is a diverse group of stakeholders. We didn't always believe finding this agreement would be possible. It took a lot of hard work. In the end, everyone in the Partnership was able to look past their own ideas and recognize that everyone's perspective has value. We listened to and learned from each other, forging an agreement that satisfied everyone's interests in some way. That's the magic of the Gallatin Forest Partnership (GFP).

The Custer/Gallatin National Forest should look at adopting the GFP "option C", which contains a package of protective designations including two near Livingston:

* The West Pine Wildlife Management Area in the northeast corner of the Gallatin Range which over time will open some more trails to mountain biking close to town. We identified two places in this area where a small amount of new trail would connect existing trails to create a longer ride and a loop ride. All in a non-motorized setting.

* Recommended wilderness from Hyalite Peak south to Yellowstone's boundary including Big Creek, Rock Creek and Tom Miner basin to protect important wildlife habitat and maintain hiking and horse trails as they are today.

The GFP "option C" agreement protects the wildlife, clean water, and undeveloped wild lands of the Gallatin Range by prohibiting new roads and major development throughout the range and identifying some appropriate front country areas for new trails.

We feel that in supporting this agreement we are also supporting a sustainable healthy population of people contributing to the local economy, engaging in healthy outdoor pursuits, and becoming more engaged in their community and their surroundings.

Sincerely,

Brice Jones
Livingston Bike Club
President