

Hello, and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I have lived in Bozeman for 20 years and I am extremely thankful for the public land that surrounds our community, how accessible it is for many types of recreation, and how wild and relatively pristine it remains to this day.

I recognize that the wild and pristine nature of our natural surroundings is partly due to the relatively low population in our area. As the area's population grows, management will become more challenging. As a general guideline, I hope access can remain intact unless/until overuse becomes an issue. By overuse, I am referring to user conflict and/or excessive trail/resource deterioration.

1. I generally support the Gallatin Forest Partnership recommendations.
 - a. I support the GFP proposal regarding the West Pine area.
 - b. I agree with the proposal to disallow new mining operations.
 - c. I think that the "no-new-trails" recommendation for the high-alpine in the Northern Gallatins may need to be revisited. As recreationists venture farther in the backcountry, in bigger numbers, trails are getting burned-in, whether we like it or not. When that is the case, I would like to see the Forest Service have the ability to "adopt" these trails and perform remediation on problematic sections of these spontaneous trails. This is not an endorsement of clandestine trail building.
2. With regard to the Lionhead area I am absolutely in favor of maintaining mountain bike access. Mountain bikers have been actively involved in trail maintenance, access, and preservation in this area. Riding in the Mile Creek, Sheep Creek, and Targhee Pass area is a truly spectacular experience that should remain accessible unless/until that access seriously affects its wilderness character.
3. I am in favor of maintaining mountain bike access to the Bridger range but again re-iterate my point that when increased usage leads to hiker/cyclist conflict, such as in the "M" area, time-share policies or bicycle exclusions should continue to be implemented.