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Comments:

I am a hunter, backcountry skier and mountain biker who uses the National Forest year round on a regular basis.

My biggest concerns are that mountain bike access is being reduced.

Mountain bikes should NOT be managed like motorcycles.

Mountain biking has been shown to cause far less erosion and impact on wildlife than motorcycles, and mountain bikers avoid muddy trails to the greatest extent possible.

Mountain bike access should not be reduced near Bozeman. More trails should be built with bikers in mind.

Specifically I am concerned about losing access in the S. Cottonwood / Wheeler / Telephone Ridge area. This is great high elevation biking right near town. We have very little of that, and if we're going to get kicked off of the Gallatin Crest and Porcupine areas near Big Sky, you should leave us S. Cottonwood at least.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly to me, it retaining our access to the Mile Creek to Lionhead via the CDT trails. As it is, there is so little high elevation mountain biking. These trails are exceptional because they are NOT super technical...making this area relatively accessible to the intermediate rider.

Bikes are quiet and fast, so yeah, we can surprise animals sometimes. But the USDA Forest Service does not need to concern itself with protecting me from bears. That is my concern to worry about. Please do not use the argument that you are shutting us out of an area to protect US. Wild areas are inherently dangerous, bike / bear conflicts are very rare, and people can take care of themselves.

Mile Creek is the best high elevation riding within 3 hours of Bozeman. Nothing else even comes close as far as how rideable it is. By forcing us off the Gallatin Crest, you leave us very few options for high elevation riding. It does not see TONS of traffic. Those of us that ride things like that CHERISH the land we ride through, care for the game that inhabits it, and act as good stewards of those trails.

Please don't take away all of our high mountain riding. It's not fair to exclude one user group just because it isn't liked by another (wilderness hikers). There is far more wild terrain accessible to hikers than bikers already due to Wilderness Designations. We don't need more designated Wilderness. Game is flourishing in the WSA's. Keep changes minimal.

Please treat motorcycles and mountain bikes differently, because they are.

Thank you.