

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 5/28/2019 2:05:30 PM

First name: Brian

Last name: Nixon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 11593 Trailbrook Ln

Address2:

City: San Diego

State:

Province/Region: CA

Zip/Postal Code: 92128

Country: United States

Email: benfnd@gmail.com

Phone:

Comments:

I am writing to ask that the final Forest Plan will continue to allow mountain biking in the Lionhead IRA. As described in Alternative E, managing the Lionhead as Backcountry Area (BCA) maintains mountain bike access while still protecting the land from development and resource extraction.

Additionally, the final Forest Plan should allow mountain bike travel on all trails currently available to bikes. Examples of trails that would be closed by alternatives C and D include: Sypes, Truman, Middle Cottonwood, South Cottonwood, Mystical Bear and more. Closing remote backcountry trails to bikes removes a unique recreation opportunity.

Attached, 20180910_125358.jpg, is a photo I took of a buddy riding in the Lionhead Mountains last summer. The trails in this mountain range are some of the best in the USA. Challenging a riders fitness and skill, while also providing a extremely remote and scenic experience. Not a common opportunity these days as more and more Forest adapt Forest Plans that exclude mountain bikes from backcountry areas, unfortunately.

Also attached is P9190971.JPG, a photo of myself atop Mt. Blackmore. Anyone who has summited a mountain knows how amazing the experience can be and doing so with a mountain bike is even more so for many of us. Mostly pushing or carrying the bike to the top, so we can slowly ride down the rocky exposed trail to South Cottonwood Creek trail. Truly an unforgettable experience.

In closing, please implement a Forest Plan that continues mountain bike access to all trail that are now available to mountain bikes. If new Recommended Wilderness areas are created, please draw the RWA boundaries so that they exclude trails open to bikes.