

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 6/6/2019 6:18:55 PM

First name: Jon

Last name: Oellrich

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 614 S Lincoln Ave

Address2:

City: Sandpoint

State: ID

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email: Jonathangoing4@gmail.com

Phone:

Comments:

I am writing in support of Alternative E, A, B and C, in that order. As a hiker, biker and sometime tourist in the area it is important to me that the Lion Head and other trails in the area remain open to mountain biking. The remote ridge top trails in particular represent a unique and irreplaceable recreational opportunity by allowing mountain bikers to recreate in a beautiful and very isolated place on primitive, challenging trails that do not encourage high speeds or narrow focus of attention. This brings more people in contact with nature and increases or collective awareness of the importance of protecting these great places. It is important to me as both a hiker and mountain biker that more people are exposed to these areas and that hikers and bikers learn to cooperate in protecting these areas rather than arguing over whose experience is more pure. The science clearly states that these uses both have small impacts, but those impacts are far less than the lid to humanity (and wildlife) if people are not out there communing with nature and defending it as a result. The USFS has no place deciding to favor one low impact use over another and doing so only serves to harm the USFS' credibility as an honest manager of these important resources.

I would like to support alternatives B and C over E but unfortunately E is the only alternative which does not explicitly plan to usurp congress's sole authority to designate wilderness areas. The other plans state that even if congress releases certain areas from WSA status the USFS will continue to manage some of those lands as if they were Wilderness by placing them in a RWA. This creates a de facto "wilderness" out of the RWA in explicit violation of the Wilderness Act, which states that only congress may designate wilderness. If the USFS intends to treat an area exactly the same as if it were congressionally designated, and intends to do so in perpetuity and with no differences between that area and designated wilderness then the USFS has created wilderness by fiat and should expect legal challenges as a result. For that reason I must request that you give more serious consideration to alternative E or amend alternative B, for example, to eliminate this illegal plan.

In any event, please do not close trails to mountain bikes, which have been a great resource in maintaining shared use trails and should continue to do so. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.