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First name: Scott

Last name: Peterson

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 10740 Old Jackson Hwy

Address2:

City: Victor

State: ID

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 83455

Country: United States

Email: sxotty@gmail.com

Phone:

Comments:

The number of areas for riding bikes in the backcountry has been steadily dwindling since I was a child. I started riding mountain bikes in the teton area when I was 10 and 30 years have brought way more people. It, therefore, becomes even nicer to get on my bike and get away from the trail head. Most trails being built are right on the edge of forest service land. This makes access easy and does serve a purpose by giving many people recreational opportunities, but it takes away from the ability to experience the true majesty of the nature world when stuck right next to civilization. Bikes are quiet and allow a person to travel longer distances while still experiencing a connection with nature. The sorts of trails that already exist in the backcountry reinforce this by not encouraging high speed travel that is encouraged on machine built trails. I still ride with my dad in the backcountry and we always take a trip up there each year. I want to be able to do the same with my kids when they are a bit older. It is a shame if we close access to low impact activities in the name of protection. My children will be more likely to value the environment if they are allowed to experience it.