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Comments:

#### SUPPORT THE GALLATIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

This is a broadly supported agreement that SWMMBA and other groups spent a long time developing for the Gallatin Range and parts of the Madison Range. The agreement deals with everything from trails to wilderness to invasive weeds. If you support the agreement, it is not necessary to get into each detail as it pertains to the forest plan. If there is a particular aspect of the agreement or area with which you have a personal connection, it will improve the value of your comment to include details about that connection.

#### SUPPORT CONTINUED BICYCLE ACCESS TO LIONHEAD

SWMMBA believes that managing this valuable area as a Backcountry Area (BCA) as described in Alternative E. The Backcountry Area is the best and most consistent method to ensure cyclist access on all of the trails. Other alternatives leave part or all of Lionhead closed to "mechanized travel" like mountain biking. We value the rugged, remote, natural feel and do not feel that we degrade it in any way by simply riding a bicycle there. If anything, mountain bikers have left it better than we found it, volunteering thousands of hours of trail work over the years.

#### CONTINUE TO MANAGE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREAS TO ALLOW BICYCLES

Managing these areas to exclude bikes (described in alternatives C and D) is unacceptable and could remove our preferred way of accessing an enormous portion of the forest. Alternative D would make many new Recommended Wilderness Areas and remove bicycles from hundreds of miles of trails across the Forest. Specifically 256 miles of trails currently available to bikes, plus 172 which we share with motorized, plus any rides that become shortened to the point of no use. This would include trails such as Sypes, Truman, Middle Cottonwood, South Cottonwood, Mystical Bear and more. This would concentrate use in front country areas and degrade the experiences of cyclists and other recreationists alike. SWMMBA believes that Bikes Belong, let the Forest Service know you do too.

#### SUPPORT CONTINUED BICYCLE ACCESS TO NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS AND NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (locally: Mile Creek at Lionhead) is open to mountain bikes unless prohibited by Wilderness or travel planning. The same goes for National Recreation Trails, which in our area include Bridger Foothills Trail, Garnet Mountain, and others. We value our access to these areas by bicycle. Managing these trails to exclude bikes as described in alternative D is unacceptable.