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Comments:

I was born in Billings in 1954 and have lived in Montana all my life. I am a relatively avid hiker, and have been since the late 1960s. I didn't get to see the first moon landing because I was at the time camping in a roadless area in the Beartooths. In college, I was a regular on the hiking trails around Missoula and, to a lesser extent, Bozeman. During a one year gig in Choteau, I often spent weekends hiking on the Rocky Mountain Front, and I hiked/camped in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. My wife and I often took our growing kids hiking in roadless areas around Red Lodge. I also frequently ride my bicycle on mountain trails throughout Montana, alone and with family.

My thoughts are this: Every square inch within Montana that is now roadless should remain roadless, permanently. All Montana wilderness study areas should be designated as wilderness in toto. There are more than ample trails in Montana already open to mountain bikes. I could wear out my bike, and myself, pedaling existing open trails without ever revisiting any one given trail. So nothing in Montana now designated as off-limits to mountain bikes or other mechanized transport should be relaxed to allow mountain bikes.

Although I consider these inadequate to preserve the status quo to my satisfaction, of the alternatives now on the table I advocate for: Alternative D with an additional 230,000 acres of wilderness in the Gallatin Range and Alternative C Backcountry acreage in the Crazy Mountains designated RWA. I really would very much prefer to preserve even more wilderness and roadless areas than outlined in these alternatives. But that is not included among the outlined alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration.