

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 6/3/2019 10:35:00 AM

First name: Margaret

Last name: Hillhouse

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 5303 Clearview Rd

Address2:

City: Belgrate

State: MT

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 59714

Country: United States

Email: hillhousem@gmail.com

Phone: 802-881-7120

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Forest Plan.

I would like to support Alternative B or C where the community input from the Gallatin Forest Partnership is endorsed. I support protection of roadless areas as they are a limited resource but I also support the acceptance of mechanized (bikes) in backcountry areas. The Lionhead in particular is an area where bikes and hiking can share the resource. The biking community has made major efforts on trail sustainability in this area to demonstrate the compatible uses. Mechanized recreation (no e-bikes) does not damage the resources as motorized use can and even horses do. Trail conditions in this area can be compared to the resource damage in places such as Buffalo Horn where some trails are torn up by the aggressive treads and torques of motors and heavy horse use.

Additionally, there are few areas where mechanized use without motorized use is permitted. At any season of the year, backcountry under human power provides something to the human psyche. Mountain biking, a rapidly growing segment of the recreational economy, provides economic benefits to the surrounding communities. Dispersing use (Lionhead, West Bridgers, East side of the Gallatins) also reduces user conflicts in areas of concentrated use such as near the Bozeman community.