

Comment

Regarding Trails around Heart Lake to become Recommended Wilderness per 1986 proposal:

I strongly oppose this action without a non-motorized travel corridor established on trails surrounding Heart Lake. We otherwise support the action to achieve large landscape conservation goals via the Great Burn Recommended Wilderness. We request that the Nez Perce-Clearwater and Lolo NF align their mgmt policies.

This is one of the few historic high-alpine mountain bike rides on the Lolo NF. The recently released draft plan from the Nez Perce-Clearwater NF recommends the Stateline Trail be managed to allow summer bike travel. A segment of the Stateline Trail is included in the route around Heart Lake making it compelling for the Lolo NF to allow bikes on the Heart Lake trail network. It is an area of pride to tell the story of how you rode the ride particularly as a woman and a mom, I get looks of surprise when I tell the young mtn biking men that I've ridden it multiple times. I can't hike up there - I have severe nerve damage in my feet but I can bike that loop so I can see and appreciate high alpine.

Regarding Carlton Ridge to Mill Creek on Lolo Peak:

I support the recommendations for the Lolo Creek Geographic Area. The three-miles of trail to the Wilderness boundary on Carlton Ridge is excellent backcountry mountain biking close to Missoula's urban area. There is no need to further restrict bike access on Lolo Peak and in the Bitterroot Range. Many years I have participated in clearing the trails here and many years have I enjoyed the ride.

Regarding Cube Iron Roadless Complex:

I strongly support recommendation for a backcountry designation in this area which will maintain primitive characteristics while allowing for bike access. The trails surrounding Cube Iron Mountain are among the few backcountry rides on the Lolo NF with excellent views and lush old-growth forest. Backcountry management designation ensures opportunities for solitude, resource protection, and recreation experience.

Regarding Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act landscape:

I support the BCSA as was drafted via coalition and submitted by Senator Tester for congressional action. This provides mountain bike access on Center Ridge and creates trail development potential into the Otatsy Lake Area.

Regarding Rock Creek:

I do not oppose additional Wilderness at Quigg Peak, though some less popular trails (Rach Creek) may be lost. We support the Backcountry management on Stony Mtn to retain access and to ensure a bike-travel connection between the Lolo, Bitterroot, and Beaverhead Deerlodge NFs.

Regarding Greater Missoula: Rattlesnake, Deep Creek, Petty Mtn:

I appreciate and support the progressive actions for the Greater Missoula Geo-Area as they are aimed at improving access and connectivity both to and within the forest. We continue to remain hopeful that the user-created trail system accessed via Dry Gulch Road will transfer to public ownership and offer additional trail-based recreation.