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Organization:

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Comments: Forest Planning Revision Team,

Thank you for accepting my comments on the draft Assessment of Existing Conditions and draft Need for Change documents. We greatly appreciate the hard work that has gone into produce these documents.

Mountain biking is growing quickly and projected to grow significantly through the life of this forest plan. We would like to add a few things:

Mountain Biking is a quiet use compatible with wild places, Bicycles are just our horses. Mountain Biking is a sustainable recreation does not degrade the resource. Mountain Bicyclists have proven they are a valuable resource when it comes to back country trail Maintenance.

Sustainable recreation is defined as the set of recreation settings and opportunities on National Forest System land that is ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable for present and future generations. We want USFS to manage designated areas, such as Recommended Wilderness, as they currently do to allow mountain bikes where appropriate.

Mountain Bikes have been referred to as mechanized transport by the Forest Service in several travel plans. Mechanized transport by the Forest Service own definition clearly does not include mountain bikes ("Mechanical transport, as herein used, shall include any contrivance which travels over ground, snow, or water, on wheels, tracks, skids, or by floatation and is propelled by a nonliving power source contained or carried on or within the device."

36 CFR § 293.6(a) (1973), formerly 36 CFR § 251.75 (1966)

please do not put a blanket ban on Bicycles in the Lionhead Recommended Wilderness or any new areas the Gallatin NF may see worthy of an RWA.

"Fat bikes" are pedal driven bicycles that allow cyclists to travel over the snow. Fat bikes require a groomed or packed surface to be ridden. We would like this new but growing use connected Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized areas and trails. Allowing grooming and connectors would link areas where fat bike are currently allowed. The forest plan needs to have the flexibility to change as new yet-to-be-developed recreational activities appear.