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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Subject: Attn: Erin Boyle, Assistant Forest Planner, re: The Potential Wilderness Area Report ending April 30.

Me and my girlfriend are avid mountain bikers. We staunchly oppose any new designations of Wilderness in the Coronado National Forest. I moved to Tucson specifically because it has been open to MTB use, and has a strong and active MTB community that takes pride in maintaining the trails here.

These proposals would wipe out years of work in establishing trails, many of which get the most usage by us mountain bikers. MORE WILDERNESS IS NOT THE ANSWER!!!! Nature can be preserved by other methods that do not ban us as a responsible user group. My understanding is that this will affect not only trails on Mt. Lemmon, but also trails in the Catalina area such as the 50 Year Trail Network, and also the Dragoons. MTB riding is a legitimate and low impact use of land, and we have many caring riders in this area that do a lot of maintenance. Probably more work than any user group.

Please do not exclude us mountain bikers from our activity that we love, in areas we love!! There are lots of tools available to protect areas from being ravaged by mining, logging, etc. There is no need to resort to a Wilderness designation that unfairly excludes our user group. We are a caring user group, willing to do work to keep our trails in fine shape. Losing us as a user group hurts the trails, the area, businesses etc. Lets use some fairness and restraint, and not jump into a proposal that does not take into account one of the largest user groups in the area. Sincerely, Vallie Lee Atkinson

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