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First name: Scott

Last name: Edmisten

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to comment on the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision #50185. I want to specifically address and comment on the action to eliminate bicycle access to the Lionhead area, Mile Creek Trail, Coffin Lakes Trail and Sheep Creek Trail. I am a land owner adjacent to the Mile Creek Trailhead and know first hand of the intrinsic value of bicycle access to this area. Bikes should continue to have access in this area.

As a member of the local community I have spent many hours using these trails. I have personally participated in trail maintenance days on all these trails over the past 5 years alongside other trail users including bikers, hikers, and horseback enthusiasts. The camaraderie I have seen with this collaborative effort to give back to this incredible area through trail maintenance has been extremely positive and unlike anything I've seen anywhere when it comes to multi user groups working together.

On a more personal note, bikes give me access to areas that my body otherwise couldn't go. Two knee surgeries have made it nearly impossible to carry heavy packs. I cherish my summer and fall days getting deep in to the Lionhead area. The only way I can do this is by pedaling my bike. Please consider folks with disabilities and the fact that bikes make access possible for many people.

Bicyclists have been good stewards for the Lionhead, Mile Creek, Coffin Lakes, and Sheep Creek Trails. Over the years, I've been involved with blow down clearing, trail clean ups, and general trail maintenance that otherwise would not have happened. This kind of work makes for a better experience and increases the overall value for all who use these areas.

I urge the Forest Service to continue allowing bicycle access in Forest Plan Revision #50185 for the entire Lionhead area, including Mile Creek Trail, Sheep Creek Trail, and Coffin Lake Trails. We should all be able to enjoy these areas through the non-motorized use of our choice. Exclusive access to just hiking and horseback only divides us and causes user resentments across groups. This is a time for us to show our similarities. In this case, we all find a special joy by being in the Lionhead with friends and family experiencing nature at its finest. If I couldn't sit on Targhee divide after a morning ride through beautiful white bark pine groves listening to a hermit thrush sing it would be a sad day. Thank you for allowing comments on this important issue.