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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have enjoyed many days recreating in the Great Burn area of the Lolo and Nez Perce-Clearwater national forests. I have hiked, camped, backpacked, mountain biked, and bike packed all along the Montana Idaho border from Lookout Pass to Lolo Pass. The Stateline Trail is the backbone of this area. Numerous trails follow the creek valleys up to the ridge where the Stateline Trail is a critical component in completing long distance backcountry routes.

Please allow human powered bicycles access to the entire Stateline trail including through the Great Burn area south of Hoodoo Pass. This trail weaves back and forth between the Lolo and Nez Perce Clearwater National Forests. Banning bicycles on the Idaho side of the border would effectively shutdown many high quality routes that originate in Montana and utilize the Stateline Trail.

Both Idaho and Montana have large areas designated as Wilderness where bicycles are currently banned by the Forest Service. I enjoy hiking and backpacking in the Wilderness areas around Missoula. But I also seek out quiet wild places to mountain bike and backpack. The Great Burn area is one of the best backcountry riding areas in Western Montana.

Additionally, I request that you please open the Colt Killed Creek (#50) trail to bicycles. This trail is adjacent to, but not in, the 1,347,644 acre Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness where bicycles are not currently allowed. With a gentle grade and excellent views of the creek this trail has the unique potential to offer newer riders a backcountry riding experience that does not require a long arduous climb.

Thank you