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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good morning!

I am writing today to support a recommendation for wilderness designation for the Cube Iron/Cataract area.

I grew up in Thompson Falls and have lived here most of my life, except for schooling at U of M, and professional work in Alaska for about 7 years after college. I always say "I left for a little while, but I got back here as soon as I could! :)

As a kid, some of my fondest memories were of hikes with my family..... to places like Cabin Lake and Mt. Headley. My Dad has now passed on, but I will always remember following him up the trail, and that 2 gallon green plastic water jug he would carry for all of us to share. My mom always brought the peanut M&Ms and full-size cans of Coke that replenished our energy once we arrived at our chosen destination that day! And, yes, we packed out what we packed in, along with whatever other trash we found along the way!

As an adult, hiking has become my favorite weekend activity. One of my first dates with my now boyfriend was a backpacking trip in the Cube Iron area..... we started at Four Lakes trailhead and spent a night at Deer Lake, watching a meteor shower through the mesh roof of our tent. We hiked all over during that trip.... Cube Iron Mountain, Deer Lake, Goat Lakes, Mt. Silcox, Arrowhead Lake, passed by Big Spring (just a big soggy spot in the trail that year), looked down at Duckhead Lake as we hiked above it and wished we had time to make a side trip to it that day! We haven't hiked up there since the Thorne Creek fire, but we will, and it will still be magical and beautiful and peaceful..... all those things!

I have attached several photos I took on that trip!

I read this letter to my 21 year old niece and she said to mention how special it is for her to find "cube irons" in rocky areas along trails in this area!

In conclusion, I urge you to consider a wilderness designation for this special place, to preserve it for current and future generations of families to enjoy.... just like I have been able to with mine.

Thank you for your time and consideration!