

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/24/2024 7:19:33 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good morning!

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

I grew up in Thompson Falls and have lived here most of my life.

Some of my fondest memories from my childhood are of hikes with my family..... to places like Cabin Lake and Mt. Headley. My Dad has now passed on, but I still remember following him up the trail, and that 2 gallon green plastic water jug he carried for all of us to share. My Mom always brought the peanut M&Ms and the full-size cans of Coke that replenished our energy once we arrived at our chosen destination for that day. And, yes, we were taught to "leave no trace", "pack it in, pack it out", and pick up any 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 the Four Lakes trailhead, and spent one night at Deer Lake, watching a meteor shower through the mesh roof of our tent. We hiked all over up there during that trip.... Cube Iron Mountain, Deer Lake, Goat Lakes, Mt. Silcox, Big Spring (just a soggy spot that year), and looked longingly down at Duckhead Lake, wishing we had time for a side trip to climb down to it as well. I have attached several photos I took on that trip.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider a wilderness designation for this special place, to preserve it in its present state for current and future generations to enjoy..... just like I have been able to enjoy it with my loved ones.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this important issue!