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First name: John

Last name: Speare

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Amy and the Forest Management Plan Revision team,

I have enjoyed mountain biking the Kettle Crest Trail for about 15 years now. It's a magical place and should absolutely be preserved as a contiguous trail - open to mountain biking - in the new Management Plan.

I have mountain biked all over the state and in BC and Oregon, and the KCT is by far my favorite multi-day trail. It's got a lot of similar features to other great trails: variable trail surfaces, excellent climbing and descents through pines and deciduous forest, amazing rock formations, huge views. But the special part of KCT is the true remote nature of the ride. I've ridden multiple sections of the trail many times - for hours - without seeing another person up there. And for that reason, it's magical and special in a way that many other popular trails in this state just can't touch.

My 13 year old daughter is just now beginning to enjoy longer, more technical mountain bike riding. I look forward to bringing her up to Stage Coach this year to ease her into the climb. Next year, we'll do the Jungle Hill/Walapaloosie loop. I hope the fire clean up will be done by next year, because the ultimate trip with my daughter will be Boulder to Snow Peak. Traveling this section with my daughter is a life goal - sounds silly, but it's true. Enjoying this section of amazing trail with my daughter is a gift I have looked forward to giving her for years.

My understanding is that your Alternative P Plan hits the mark for balancing the varied needs of wilderness advocates with motorized folks and grazers and all the other user groups that love this area as much as I do. I don't envy your task as I know there are many conflicting ideas of what this area should be. I trust the process that drives these plans and that ultimately, you'll be making the right decision for the long-term viability of the forest while doing your best to accommodate the conflicting requirements.

In that spirit, I'm requesting that you consider amending Alternative P Plan. According to my understanding, the proposed Bald/Snow/White wilderness designation removes a chunk of KCT and cuts off access to Thirteen Mile Trail. Please do not follow through with this, or as suggested by Evergreen Mountain Bike Org: This area should be included in the SIA. Please keep the KCT (and the feeder trails) open as a contiguous trail to mountain bikers.

Thank you for the work you do.

Sincerely,

John Speare

Spokane, WA