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Comments: [CAUTION: Suspicious Link]Comment draft plan - CGNF

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Questions: Spam.Abuse@wdc.usda.gov

I am currently a resident of Liberty Lake, WA (99019, near Spokane) and a former resident of Big Sky, Montana where I was a firefighter/paramedic and search and rescue leader. I am intimately familiar with the Custer Gallatin National Forest (The Forest) and frequently return to hike, mountain bike, paddle and ski. As you revise The Forest Plan I request that you work to keep primitive areas wild, but continue to allow access for mountain bikes. As an avid back-country traveler, I know mountain bikers bring trail maintenance support and economic opportunity to surrounding communities(1). Mountain biking is a minimum impact activity that has been shown to have less impact than horseback riding and is on par with hiking(1 & 2). Mountain biking is a valid way to enjoy the amazing landscape of The Forest.

Please maintain the primitive characteristics of The Forest while allowing human-powered mechanized activities in Wilderness Study Areas and to continue where it currently does. I want to thank you for your continued work in preserving our national lands, wildlife and heritage. I know this is a difficult task that you work tirelessly to do. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into The Revised Forest Plan. If you have any questions about my comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

(1) http://headwaterseconomics.org/wp-content/uploads/Trail_Study_104-OR-Mtn-Bike-Tourism-Oakridge.pdf

(2) <https://www.uvm.edu/~snrvtdc/trails/erosionalimpactofhikers.pdf>

Happy trails,

Rocco Altobelli

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