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First name: Josh

Last name: Gage

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear CGNF Planning Committee,

Our family of 4 are active users on many parts of the Custer Gallatin NF throughout the year. We hike and backpack in Wilderness Areas, hunt in rugged front-country areas, snowmobile around Cooke City, ski bridger bowl and mountain bike throughout the region. I feel strongly about many aspects of the planning, but feel the most critical piece is maintained access for mountain bikes across the Forest.

This continued access is most critical in the Lionhead area where we've been fortunate enough to ride for almost a decade. Mile Creek and Sheep Creek are two iconic rides and in my opinion the inclusion of bikes in this area does not degrade the wild quality of the area. Additionally, mountain bikers have volunteered thousands of hours over the years and are great stewards keeping the trails well maintained.

We are strong supporters of the compromise reached under the Gallatin Forest Partnership Agreement. This compromise was a the outcome of many meeting between a diverse group of users and is the clearest path forward for this area.

Finally, I feel strongly that alternatives C & D and the management of Wilderness Study Areas as Wilderness is not appropriate.

Sincerely,

Josh Gage