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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I believe that managing this valuable area as a Backcountry Area (BCA) as described in Alternative E is best. The Backcountry Area is the most consistent method to keep things the way they are now, maintaining bike access. Other alternatives leave part or all of Lionhead closed to "mechanized travel" like mountain biking. We value the rugged, remote, natural feel and do not feel that we degrade it in any way by simply riding a bicycle there. If anything, mountain bikers have left it better than we found it, volunteering thousands of hours of trail work over the years.

Outside of the Gallatin Forest Partnership Agreement Area, we believe managing these areas to exclude bikes (described in alternatives C and D) is unacceptable and could remove our preferred way of accessing an enormous portion of the forest. Alternative D would make many new Recommended Wilderness Areas and remove bicycles from hundreds of miles of trails across the Forest. Specifically, 256 miles of trails currently available to bikes, plus 172 which we share with motorized, plus any rides that become shortened to the point of no use. This would include trails such as Sypes, Truman, Middle Cottonwood, South Cottonwood, Mystical Bear and more. This would concentrate use in front country areas and degrade the experiences of cyclists and other recreationists alike. SWMMBA believes that Bikes Belong, let the Forest Service know you do too.