

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/6/2019 2:18:38 PM

First name: Andrew

Last name: Baranovic

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello and good morning. I own a bicycle repair shop in Red Lodge and am a lover of the outdoors and all it offers. Cycling is my true passion with hiking and backpacking coming in a close second. Red Lodge is a unique area beings it is so close to so much Forest and Wilderness area. In the eleven years we have been here, I have seen so much change in outdoor recreation. I opened my bike shop four years ago and it has seemed to facilitate a big growth in bicycle tourism for this community. We have been getting overflow from the Bozeman, Missoula, and Helena regions as cyclist want to get away from the crowds and the buffed, groomed trails and see some new country. The Line Creek Plateau trail is in the top five best mountain biking trails in the state, and what a fantastic ride it is. I was so glad to see the FS doing improvements on it to keep it safe and help protect the tundra for years to come. I expect more people coming to the area with their bikes to enjoy and explore what the Red Lodge area has to offer. The town survives on tourism and it is important to keep bicycle access to trails close to town as well as the epic plateau rides we currently have. Alternatives C and E seem to keep things moving in a good direction and the Recreation Emphasis Areas will help the FS manage growth moving into the future. We have a pile of Wilderness right out of our back door, adding any more would squeeze what few multiuse trails we have and eliminate much of the cycle tourism we have worked to build. There are fantastic trail user groups now to help the FS manage what is there now and continue to build into the future. Thanks so much for the opportunity to comment and giving us a voice in our Forrest.

Andy Baranovic