

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/6/2019 6:01:10 PM

First name: Alfie

Last name: Shird

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Sir/Madame,

I want to thank you for taking the time to solicit and review feedback regarding the CGNF revision plan.

These are public lands and the decision making process should similarly value input from the public who have been accessing and maintaining these areas for decades.

In today's highly polarized society, it can be very difficult - if not impossible - to get folks on opposite sides of the table to compromise and find common sense collaborative solutions.

But that's just what the Gallatin Forest Partnership was able to accomplish after many years of hard work and difficult conversations.

While I don't agree with everything they've put forth, I believe their recommendations are an excellent starting point for discussion.

More specifically my concern has to do with the one area they could not reach a consensus: the Lionhead.

As someone who has been biking those trails for almost 20 years and has taken part in several of the trail work days sponsored by Corey Biggers, SWMMBA and the Backcountry Horsemen, this trail network is very important to me, my fellow Montana cyclists, and the many tourists who come to Montana/Idaho specifically to visit the Lionhead whatever their chosen form of recreation.

With the loss of the Gallatin Crest Trail to biking, the Lionhead remains the last high alpine gem in our area.

In fact I love biking Sheep Creek so much that I purchased a cabin in Island Park for increased opportunity to explore the area on bike and on foot.

The historical use of bikes in this area has not negatively impacted the flora or fauna and should continue.

As such I'd like to see the Lionhead managed as a non-motorized backcountry designation.

Lastly, I'd like to reiterate what I said at the beginning: you have a very challenging task to weigh the various proposals and priorities that have been put forth.

I am 100% positive whatever recommendation your team makes regarding WSA management, that there will be user groups disappointed by your decision.

And so I urge you to consider the GFP's proposal which was the only COLLABORATIVE solution put forth.

They did a masterful job balancing the desires of disparate user groups, while taking a common sense approach.

It's my hope that with your wise stewardship I will continue to be able to bike these trails with my children and that generations to come will appreciate your forward thinking on this matter.

Thanks,

Alfie