

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/7/2019 2:09:18 AM

First name: Daniel

Last name: Lashinski

Organization:

Title:

Comments: "This land is YOUR land, this land is MY land" Woody Guthrie.

Public land is PUBLIC land for ALL to enjoy. Myself and my family have been coming to the Rocky Mountain range to recreate and vacation for 15+ years. The abundance amount of land and recreation opportunities is why I relocated here in Montana, just like several other individuals in the area. I chose to move to Livingston because of the close proximity for recreation opportunities and now they are on the brink of being taken away from not only me, but other outdoor enthusiasts as well.

Montana is a tourist state and a lot of revenue generated for the state and local economies is because of this. As a motorized user and non-motorized use of our forests, our lands are getting popular and busier year after year. By closing land down and only allowing certain user groups on the land will be a dramatic blow to the local businesses and economy. Yes, that means taking food off of peoples tables and will in the long term make they seasonal operations of maybe even close up shop.

I do agree we need to conserve and protect lands, however, I think we can do a better job at maintaining our public lands instead of shutting them down to people. There is PLENTY of wilderness already in place and adding more wilderness will only create MORE problems than good. Confining and funneling people to certain areas if more wilderness would be added would cause chaos and overcrowding. With the city of Bozeman expected to grow to a population of 200,000 residents by 2040, where are these people supposed to recreate?

My parents are in their mid 60's, how are they supposed to enjoy the land and scenery if everything turns into wilderness and only foot traffic is allowed? They can't hike 10 miles one way! They currently use their UTV and enjoy the trails we have to offer and the breathtaking scenery that comes along with it. I know I will be old one day and will not be able to hike as long distance as I can now. What is the plan for people who aren't physically fit or have a physical disability, how are they supposed to enjoy the land? Can't let a motorized wheelchair on the trails because it's motorized?

Please leave our land the way it is right now and again, lets look at some issues forest wide and make improvements. Motorized users are subject to buy a licence to operate their machines weather they are resident or non-residents. Why can't we have ALL forest users buy licences or permits? Hiking, cross country skiing, mountain biking, etc...

This is public land, so EVERYONE should be able to use the lands. Please don't cater to certain user groups over others. If you add wilderness, everyone should be locked out of it.

I ask that we leave the lands the way it is right now and all user groups act like adults and GET ALONG!

Please consider Alternative E for the final decision.

Sincerely,

Daniel Lashinski

