

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/7/2019 3:42:09 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi my name is Kyle Johnson and I am on the Board of Directors for Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association. I am also the Master Technician for the REI in Bozeman MT.

I am writing a comment because I am very passionate about mountain biking in the Custer Gallatin National Forest. Mountain Biking to me is not only a passion for a sport but also how I make my livelihood. My wife and I just bought our first home in Bozeman after living in Bozeman for 9 year. It is worth it to us to pay the "mountain tax" for the chance to live so close to public land that we use everyday.

I believe in what the Gallatin Forest Partnership stands for and I support all the hardworking people that helped put it together. It is very important as a good land steward to be able to access the trails that I am currently helping to maintain by leading Trail Work Days for SWMMBA. One of these places that we help maintain is the Lionhead region near West Yellowstone. Those mountains are the reason I started volunteering more with SWMMBA. To be able to ride my bike up and over a mountain pass that remote is my favorite thing to do outdoors.

Having long alpine rides in Southwest Montana is also very important for my Job as well. Running the bike and ski shop at REI has shown me the value in having all types and difficulties of trails to choose from. We need to have easy access to short simple trails for beginners but we also need long difficult trails for experienced riders. Some of what is proposed in alternative D frankly scares me for my job. If we don't have bike access then people wont be buying nice mountain bikes and they wont need service on those bikes. We also see a lot of bike tourism and that has gone up a lot since I moved here to open the REI shop in 2010.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Cheers,

Kyle Johnson

SWMMBA Trails Director

REI Master Technician