Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/7/2019 4:05:56 AM First name: Anna Last name: Verhaeghe Organization:

## Title:

Comments: It was the areas around Bozeman that taught me to love and protect the wilderness. Coming from a family who would car camp, and take ski resort vacations, I thought I knew what the great outdoors meant. I had no idea how wild it could be until I came to Bozeman. These mountains taught me what beauty means and taught me to respect the wilderness. I was able to further my interests and spark new ones. Backpacking, backcountry skiing, and climbing in some of America's most beautiful landscape. From backpacking the beaten path, to skiing outside of cook city, the majesty of these mountains is in their solitude. It would be heartbreaking to take away the opportunity to connect with the earth and find a new and different perspective and to take away the land that people return to again and again to find peace. In addition to our personal benefit, in an age where we are seeing the real and extreme effects our species has had on the earth, attempting to minimize the influence of humans on the environment, even in a small corner of the earth, is worth the effort.