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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Nez Perce-Clearwater Plan Revision Comment

USFS Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest,

I am a Montana resident, mountain biker, property owner, father, husband.

I am also employed as a consulting hydrogeologist, and understand that policy decisions are generally driven by science and/or regulation.

I ask that mountain bike access on public lands be preserved where it was historically allowed.

The State Line trail is a true gem of the northern rockies, each year I ride this trail several times, and often I escort friends from out of the area to show them this special ride.

I rarely encounter other users on this trail, and I do not believe that the level of use by any user groups creates conflict.

This State Line trail is very challenging on a bike, resulting in low overall speed and reduced risk of conflict with hikers or horses.

I have the following comments on the Forest Plan Revision:

1. Maintain bicycle access to the State Line Trail (Trail 738) through the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest and restore access to miles 20-27, where it was recently closed.
2. Maintain access to the State Line Trail by existing singletrack routes
3. Recognize the Idaho and Federal Roadless Rules in the Forest Plan Revisions

Neighboring public land managers in Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia have recognized the economic value of mountain biking.

Land managers from portions of other states including Idaho and Montana have yet to realize the economic benefits of maintaining or expanding trail access.

I ask that you strongly consider the recommendations above in your revision of the Forest Plan

David Rugh

Missoula, Montana