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First name: Andrew

Last name: Wilcox

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I write to encourage the USFS to maintain bicycle access to the State Line Trail and to restore access to miles 20-27, as well as to provide clear guidance to the public- in the past, occasionally users (like myself) have received differing guidance on access from different USFS offices, regarding the State Line trail. In addition, please maintain access to the State Line Trail by existing single track routes. Finally, please recognize the Idaho and Federal Roadless Rules in this area to preserve the area's wild character.

Bicycle use is compatible with this trail and with maintaining the area's character. I rode a portion of the State Line trail last summer by mountain bike. I saw very few other people, and in each case had amiable interactions with other trail users. This ride was undoubtedly the highlight of my summer biking last year; a truly memorable experience. I hope that others may have that experience, although given the difficulty and remoteness, cycling usage will be low in numbers and impact.

I am a geomorphologist (Professor in Geosciences at the University of Montana), which means I study erosion for a living. I am confident, based on my observations of the State Line trail (this includes mile 20-27) that cycling use of this trail has had, and will continue to have minimal erosion impacts. There are certainly erosion issues on portions of the trail related to lack of maintenance, such as water bars, and cyclists would be a willing constituency to contribute to such trail maintenance, as cyclists have shown in many other instances in western Montana.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Andrew Wilcox