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Comments: Given the proximity of the entire area of the Bitterroot Front Project to residents of the Bitterroot Valley, as well as the accessibility to visitors to the valley, we would like to emphasize the importance of the recreational opportunities that the area of the project provides. The project should be executed in a way that minimizes impacts to existing trails, including trails that are not currently adopted into the Forest Service system. Examples include trails located to the south of Bass Creek (Brooks area), to the south of Mill Creek (Tamarack area), Roaring Lion-Camas-Hayes area, and both Como-South and Como-North. Trails in these areas are frequently used by mountain bikers, as well as other non-motorized users. In particular, in partnership with the forest service, the Bitterroot Backcountry Cyclists has been putting a lot of effort into developing and maintaining trails in the Como-South and Como-North areas. The trails in these areas have been quickly gaining in popularity for mountain bikers, as well as for other trail users. We request that the emphasis of the project for these areas be on maintaining and enhancing opportunities for non-motorized recreation.

Additionally, throughout the project area, we ask that opportunities for development of new trails be considered. Trails that provide connectivity between trailheads/canyons would be highly desired. Two good examples would be a trail connecting the Ward mountain trail to Coyote Coulee, and a trail that connects the new trails in the Como-South area to Tincup Canyon (providing improved access from Darby).

Jeff Kern

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