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Comments: I own property adjacent to the trail along Yaak River Road in Montana. My only suggestion is to require hikers to carry personal bear spray protection as they travel through grizzly habitat. I don't think this is too much of an inconvenience just for certain portions of the trail. Having spent a lot of time in the Yaak, I know that bears who get into trouble are the victims of careless or arrogant people--it is never the bear's fault. Every hiker should carry their own spray and know how to use it.

In order to protect the bears and that is our charge, we can tolerate this one little nuisance of having to carry bear spray. One encounter, one injury and especially one death will put all the bears in danger. Bear spray appears to be the safest, most humane way to deter such mishaps. It is a privilege to get to hike through this country and we need to error on the side of reducing chances of a disastrous encounter.