Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/17/2022 6:33:53 PM First name: George Last name: Wuerthner Organization: Title:

Comments: I support the no action alternative. This is a major intrusion into wildlife habitat. Human recreation is seen as a growing threat to wildlife, but mountain bikes because they travel faster and further than hikers, and other non-mechanical recreation cover more ground, hence have a higher propabability of disturbing wildlife.

Furthermore, studies elsewhere have shown that mountain bikes disturb wildlife at a greater distance. In other words, say an elk is moved a quarter mile from a well used trail, the same elk is likely to move up to a mile from the trail, thus precluding a lot of habitat from unitilization.

The problem with mountain bikers is they are never satified. And it is well established that they will frequently build additional trails off any trail system. So no matter what you believe will be the mileage of disturbed habitat it will grow due to illegal trail construction.