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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please Protect Trail Access - NPCNF FP Revision Comment

Dear Forest Supervisor Cheryl Probert,

Thank you for your care and consideration for quiet, human-powered recreation on our National Forests. Mountain biking is essential to the way we enjoy our public lands, and enthusiastically support reasonable protections for mountain bike access across the Nez-Perce Clearwater NF.

I hope that you will consider the following as you develop Plan Alternatives in coming months.

- Protecting existing mountain bike access is essential to the social and economic sustainability for the communities surrounding these landscapes. Cyclists have used the trails of the Hoodoo IRA for nearly four decades, with no deleterious effects to its wild character, and mountain biking contributes to Montana's \$6.5 billion outdoor recreation community. We need to invest in sustainable recreation.
- Mountain bikes should be allowed as a non-conforming use in Recommended Wilderness Areas. The Agency has wide discretion to allow and manage use that does not degrade wilderness character. The precedent has been affirmed time and time again that mountain bikes on a landscape do not preclude wilderness designation.
- The proposed action allows avenues for road building, timber sales, and mining, but closes trails in RWAs to mountain bikes. This implies that those extractive industries are less detrimental to wilderness character than quiet, human-powered transportation on existing trails. This non-sequitur should be addressed.
- Protecting existing mountain bike access is not at odds with large-scale wilderness designation and ecological protections. Trail cherry stems, RWA boundary adjustments, and Recreation Management Areas have a proven track record of building large-scale community support for management designations by protecting sustainable trail use as well as significant wilderness expansions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the future planning for our shared public lands.

Sincerely,
John Sieber