

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/25/2024 2:15:26 AM

First name: James

Last name: Cooper

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my strong support for allow access to mountain biking trails around Heart Lake and advocating for the designation of the Cube Iron Roadless Complex as a backcountry area. As an avid mountain biker and a passionate advocate for responsible outdoor recreation, I believe it is crucial to strike a balance between conservation efforts and preserving access for non-motorized activities like mountain biking.

Firstly, I support the proposed wilderness designation in the Great Burn area but ask for a narrow portion of area to support mountain bike access. I urge for the consideration of establishing a small non-motorized travel corridor around the Hart Lake which would enable greater opportunities for long-distance mountain bike loops in a primitive backcountry. This approach would allow for the continued enjoyment of the area by mountain bikers while still respecting the wilderness values and ensuring minimal impact on the environment. Backcountry mountain biking represents a small fraction of total mountain biking activities, and enthusiasts like myself are drawn to these remote and isolated areas for the same reasons as hikers and equestrians seek out wilderness experiences.

Secondly, I wholeheartedly support the designation of the Cube Iron Roadless Complex as a backcountry area. By designating Cube Iron as backcountry, we can foster a sense of stewardship among mountain bikers towards conservation efforts while ensuring that all users can enjoy the area responsibly.

Furthermore, it's important to note that mountain biking groups are often actively involved in trail maintenance, including the removal of deadfall, which benefits all trail users. By working collaboratively with land management agencies and other user groups, mountain bikers can contribute positively to the preservation and maintenance of these natural spaces.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider these points as part of the public comment period and to support access for mountain biking around Heart Lake while also advocating for the designation of the Cube Iron Roadless Complex as backcountry. By finding a balance between conservation and recreation, we can ensure that these valuable outdoor resources are protected for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for considering my input on this important matter.