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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comment 1:

Proposed Action: Cooperate with Missoula Co. on restoration and recreation planning efforts in the Deep Creek area.

I am greatly in support of planning to work with the city, county and other local groups to develop user trail systems on the western side of Missoula and in the Deep Creek area. This area continues to see lots of expansion and the need for local recreation has never been higher.

The Deep Creek area specifically shows a need for mountain bike trails. The unauthorized trails of Deep Creek are some of the best trails in the region and I hope that the forest can be part of the process of creating sanctioned, sustainable recreation in this area. Neglecting this area's recreation needs will likely lead to resource damage from users seeking experience using unsanctioned methods.

Comment 2:

Proposed Action: Recommended Wilderness does not change bike travel on the Carlton Ridge trail system.

I wanted to voice my support for this action. Mountain bikers of the region hold Carlton Ridge and Mill Creek as one of the crown jewels and one of the last alpine rides where it is legal to ride a bike. Many other areas have been closed to mountain bikes due to Wilderness or WSA designation.

The three-miles of trail to the Wilderness boundary on Carlton Ridge is excellent backcountry mountain biking close to Missoula's urban area. There is no need to further restrict bike access on Lolo Peak and in the Bitterroot Range.

Comment 3:

Proposed Action: Heart Lake area becomes Recommended Wilderness.

I strongly oppose this action without a non-motorized travel corridor established on trails surrounding Heart Lake. The Lolo's management of this area should align with the Nez Perce-Clearwater NF.

This is one of the few historic high-alpine mountain bike rides on the Lolo NF. The recently released draft plan from the Nez Perce-Clearwater NF recommends the Stateline Trail be managed to allow summer bike travel. A segment of the Stateline Trail is included in the route around Heart Lake making it compelling for the Lolo NF to allow bikes on the Heart Lake trail network.

Comment 4:

Proposed Action: Cube Iron/Four Lakes area managed as Backcountry designation.

I support this action. Non motorized access has been longstanding in this area and should be maintained as is.