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First name: Tim

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you very much for all your hard work managing our forests, wildlands and backcountry trails. Myself and family are longtime quite recreation backcountry users and advocates.

We strongly oppose the trails around Heart lake being managed as, or becoming wilderness, without a non-motorized travel corridor being established on trails surrounding the lake. We otherwise support the action to achieve large landscape conservation goals via the Great Burn Recommended Wilderness. We request that the Nez Perce-Clearwater and Lolo NF align their mgmt policies. Having ridden these great trails numerous times, we want to see the historical usage of this amazing high alpine ride be restored.

We support the recommendations for the Lolo Creek Geographic Area and the continued access to the three-miles of trail to the Wilderness boundary on Lolo peak (Carlton Ridge Carlton Ridge to Milk Creek). This is excellent backcountry mountain biking close to Missoula that we look forward to riding many times each season. There is no need to further restrict bike access on Lolo Peak and in the Bitterroot Range.

We strongly support recommendation for a backcountry designation in the Cube iron roadless complex, that will maintain it's primitive characteristics while allowing for bike access. These trails are among the few backcountry rides on the Lolo NF through lush old-growth forest with excellent views. Backcountry management designation ensures opportunities for solitude, wonderful recreation experiences, while maintaining resource protection.

We appreciate and support the progressive actions for the Greater Missoula: Rattlesnake, Deep Creek and Petty Mountain, as they are aimed at improving access and connectivity both to and within the forest. We remain hopeful that the user-created trail system accessed via Dry Gulch Road will transfer to public ownership and offer additional trail-based recreation. The West and MT has changed significantly since the 1986 forest plan adoption. The desired conditions and objectives speak to the population growth and increase in forest visitation. The Missoula Front Country project encompassing Deep Creek holds great potential to relieve some of the visitation pressure at existing trail networks and to serve the rapid population growth occurring west of Missoula.

Again, thanks for all that you do and for recognizing mountain bikers as a vital user group.

Cheers Tim and Cassie Buhl