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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support access to increasingly rare backcountry trail rides on public land. I believe that conservation goals can be achieved while retaining bike access. The increase in mountain bike traffic shows that new trail connections and recreation sites are needed around Missoula.

I strongly oppose the trails around Heart Lake becoming Recommended Wilderness per 1986 proposal without a non-motorized travel corridor established on trails surrounding Heart Lake. I otherwise support the action to achieve large landscape conservation goals via the Great Burn Recommended Wilderness. I request that the Nez Perce-Clearwater and Lolo NF align their management policies.

I support the recommendations for the Lolo Creek Geographic Area that leave the Carlton Ridge to Mill Creek on Lolo Peak trails open to mountain bikers. 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.

I strongly support recommendation for a backcountry designation for the Cube Iron Roadless Complex which will maintain primitive characteristics while allowing for bike access. The trails surrounding Cube Iron Mountain are among the few backcountry rides on the Lolo NF with excellent views and lush old-growth forest. Backcountry management designation ensures opportunities for solitude, resource protection, and recreation experience.

I do not oppose additional Wilderness at Quigg Peak, though some less popular trails (Rach Creek) may be lost. I support the Backcountry management on Stony Mtn to retain access and to ensure a bike-travel connection between the Lolo, Bitterroot, and Beaverhead Deerlodge NFs. Trail 313 north of Skalkaho Pass is excellent backcountry riding. Stony Lake Trail (Tr 8002, Beaverhead Deerlodge NF) and Big Spring Creek (Tr 1269, Lolo NF) provide a great backcountry loop with Tr 313.

I appreciate and support the progressive actions for the Greater Missoula Geo-Area as they are aimed at improving access and connectivity both to and within the forest. I continue to remain hopeful that the user-created trail system accessed via Dry Gulch Road will transfer to public ownership and offer additional trail-based recreation.