Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/1/2024 6:43:23 AM First name: Elliot Last name: Thornblade Organization:

Title:

Comments: access to the lolo national forest area is beneficial to everyone, from bikers to hikers and even there family members which will notice how happy there outdoor people are, making them more happy and creating a domino affect for everyone else and years to come. permission to build trails in this area will also increase this fact. Creating more trails provides opportunities for people who may be farther away from other mtb or hiking areas and allow them to access trails more easier. it also provides a new challenge to people and spreads out the use of trails, meaning it may not be so crowded at another area. access is super important to everyone's well being and will be really important in the long run for our kids and friends and family to enjoy and reap the benefits of this awesome land. for the heart lake loop, state line trail, I strongly oppose this action 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 mgmt policies. for the carlton ridge to mill creek on lolo peak, amazing area with views and backcountry feel, away from lots of cars. I support the recommendation for the lolo creek geographical area. 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, this provides a great biking area that increases the value of our biking system and makes it easier for some people in the lolo area to reach the trails quicker, after work for example, when marshall may be too far away. Another area is the cube iron roadless complex. I strongly support recommendation for a backcountry designation in this area 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. The Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act landscape, I support the BCSA as was drafted via coalition and submitted by Senator Tester for congressional action. This provides mountain bike access on Center Ridge and creates trail development potential into the Otatsy Lake Area. this is great for conservation outcomes of the Blackfoot clearwater watershed ecosystem. Rock Creek, I do not oppose additional Wilderness at Quigg Peak. 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. Rattlesnake, deep creek, and petty mountain, 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. We continue to remain hopeful that the user-created trail system accessed via Dry Gulch Road will transfer to public ownership and offer additional trailbased recreation. Western 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.