

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/1/2024 1:23:19 PM

First name: Eric

Last name: Warren

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Lolo National Forest Administrator,

As a Missoula resident, I've spent a lot of time enjoying the unique landscapes of the Lolo National Forest for a variety of activities, most often, mountain biking. I'm grateful for the opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions to the Lolo National Forest Management Plan. I'm a firm believer that mountain biking belongs with other human-powered activities in our national forests.

While I support the action to recommend Wilderness designation near the Heart Lake in order to achieve large landscape conservation goals, I **STRONGLY** oppose doing so without a non-motorized travel corridor established on trails surrounding Heart Lake. The Heart Lake, Stateline Trails create one of the most spectacular alpine mountain biking routes in the area. Alpine trails like these give mountain bikers the kind of remote, challenging, and beautiful backcountry experiences that other trail users get to experience. The draft plan from the Nez Perce-Clearwater NF recommends the Stateline Trail be managed to allow summer bike travel. I would very much like to see the Lolo plan align with the NPC's plan, allowing mountain biking on these spectacular alpine trails.

I strongly support the proposal to designate the Cube Iron Roadless Complex as backcountry, maintaining the remote and primitive characteristics that make this a special place while allowing bicycle access. Similar to the Heart Lake trails, trails in the Cube Iron offer incredible backcountry experiences to mountain bikers that need to be preserved.

I also support the continued bike access on Carlton Ridge to Mill Creek on Lolo Peak. Having alpine singletrack this near Missoula is so important for mountain bikers short on time to enjoy backcountry landscapes.

Trail 313 north of Skalkaho Pass is a favorite ride especially when combined with Stony Lake Trail (Tr 8002) and Big Spring Creek (Tr 1269) to create what feels like a deep backcountry loop. Trails like these offer solitude, challenge, and a feeling of accomplishment that frontcountry trails don't. Managing the Stony Mountain area as backcountry and keeping 313 open is really important to me, even if additional Wilderness is added in the Quigg Peak area.

Thank you, Lolo National Forest administrators, for your time and consideration. I look forward to seeing the final Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Eric Warren