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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I grew up in North Idaho and often spent my summers along the Montana/Idaho state line in the Great Burn area. Raised in a logging family, outdoor recreation was always a part of my life and often included four-wheeling and motorized sports. I married someone who often snowmobiled up Hoodoo Pass. We are members of MTB Missoula and participate in many of the biking opportunities. Mountain biking is one of our primary ways of connection as a family and in our community. We ride locally multiple times a week and value the opportunity.

I was lucky enough in the summer of 2020 to spend 3.5 weeks in the Great Burn backpacking with my then, twin 6-year-olds. It was one of the most meaningful times of my life. We were able to witness nature in a way that is not possible on a mountain bike or snowmobile. We watched bears and their cubs, mountain goats, moose, snakes, frogs, birds, and more exist in the quiet. We were able to be quiet, to move slowly. In a world that is only encouraging us to move faster and faster it is our responsibility to protect these quiet places, for the animals, for ourselves, and for generations to come.

I understand the challenges of multiple user groups. I understand the disappointment of deeply desiring something and having to tell yourself no, if only for the reason that it will not exist that boundary is not maintained. It is my ask that the Lolo National Forest protects the quiet of the Great Burn and moves to NOT allow mountain biking on the Stateline trail or increase snowmobile access.