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First name: Pete

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Organization: Terraflow Trails

Title: Owner

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I submit these comments with the sincere desire to preserve mountain bike access to backcountry trails currently open to bicycles. While I am not personally familiar with the trails within the proposed travel plan, after reading submitted comments from other mountain bikers I can assure you that I support continued mountain bike access to these trails.

As a resident of the Flathead Valley I have enjoyed many peaceful mountain bike adventures within the Swan Range, and can attest to the overwhelmingly positive afterglow of a full day in the backcountry. As a professional trail builder who specializes in "new school" "flow" trails I can also attest to the entirely unique experience of navigating high alpine backcountry single track. Contrary to the purpose built nature of a mountain bike flow trail, backcountry single track offers mountain bikers a slower, more technically demanding and contemplative day in the mountains.

Mountain bikers, especially those willing to silently pedal their bikes over high alpine passes, typically share conservation values similar to hiking and equestrian groups. These riders also frequently do more than their fair share of trail maintenance in order to help preserve access to those high alpine passes. Exclusion of mountain biking from conservation proposals usually results in mountain bikers withdrawing their support from proposals that they otherwise agree with.

Please consider making whatever choices need to be made to preserve the Great Burn and surrounding areas, while allowing for all types of quiet, non-motorized recreation. Let's keep all human powered recreation on the same playing field.

Respectfully yours,

Pete Costain

Terraflow Trails