

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 5/21/2019 10:07:39 AM

First name: William

Last name: Cochran

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 413 N. Black Ave

Address2:

City: Bozeman

State: MT

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 59715

Country: United States

Email: bill_cochran@mac.com

Phone: 4065814306

Comments:

Folks,

As the Forest Planning Process comes closer to a resolution I want to express my support for the agreement reached by the Gallatin Forest Partnership as the best solution for the HPBH WSA. I was a member of the Gallatin Community Collaborative, and while we didn't reach full consensus on the area, we did come to a significant level of agreement and compromise. The GFP continued that work, and WAS able to achieve consensus and develop a plan to try and address the long term conflict and grid lock that has prevented long term designation for the HPBH. We all agree that significant portions of the WSA should be converted to Wilderness designation, but that other parts should accommodate the growing pressure from the Gallatin valleys development. Multiple user groups have endorsed this plan, and while not everyone is happy I feel this is the best way going forward to both utilize, AND protect the region.

I know there have been numerous letters to the editor, and significant pressure to make it ALL Wilderness, but that is not going to address the usage issues, and will not have a chance of getting through congressional approval. Status quo for the area is NOT a good option.

To be clear, I am a hunter, conservationist, and mountain bike user who relishes the back country of the Lionhead, the Bridgers and the Gallatin, but I am willing to give up some of those trails in the Gallatin to preserve wildlife connectivity and habitat. I feel the Lionhead to be one of the premier isolated high country gems we have access to, and would NOT want to see it closed to MTB usage. Similarly the Bridgers are an untapped area to develop new access for the population of users we now have who want to recreate in their forests. Those recreators are the protectors of these areas....

thank you for your time and consideration

bill