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Organization:

Title:

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Comments:

Hello,

My name is Kraig McKernan, I was born and raised in Bozeman and have been here my entire life. Bozeman has changed a bunch in the last decade, but the mountains, the mountains and wilderness have stayed close to the same. My parents have instilled a sense of community and respect for these natural areas that could be affected. These forests are extremely important resources that should remain available for use by current (and future) generations.

I use all of the mountains around Bozeman and surrounding areas for hiking, biking and snowmobiling with friends, family and dogs. The freedom to participate in these activities is the primary reason I still choose to reside in Bozeman. Removing significant portions of access for any of these activities will severely impact my life in tangible and negative ways. The current allocations for recreation we have allow me to let steam off after work, allow me to be (really) alone when I need, and give my dog the space to really be free(at least until we go back home).

I sincerely support the Southwest Montana Mountain Biking Association and their partnerships. They have done an amazing job at Copper City and I trust that their input into these Forest Planning revisions accurately reflects a vision similar to mine. I give work hours to this organization every year and feel that they give supporters pride in their community and the public lands that we use. I feel that Mountain Bikers are a key demographic in supporting public lands and advocacy for creating maintainable and ecosystem-friendly trails.

As Bozeman grows larger and larger, the population who Mountain Bike also grows. You can see it on any weeknight up at Leverich. As this population grows, we need more trails designated for Mountain Bike use, not less. At the very least, lesser used trails like Truman Gulch, Corbly Gulch, or Lionhead need to remain open to Mountain Bikers as the most popular trails become increasingly difficult to even find parking for.

Please contact me if I can clarify or present my opinion elsewhere.

Thank you,

Kraig McKernan

Attached is a picture of my dog, Myka, thoroughly enjoying herself at the top of Truman Gulch.