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Comments:

Montana has 3.4 million wilderness acres and 27.3 million acres of public lands in the state. There are many more millions of acres of recommended wilderness, wilderness study areas and road-less areas. Just the wilderness in Montana adds up to just over 12% of all public lands in the state. This means that 12% of all public lands are reserved for only two user groups, hikers, and horseback riders. Roads and trails are frequently closed, condensing user groups other than hikers and horseback riders into smaller and smaller areas. Mechanized user groups such as bicycles, side by sides, ATVs, motorcycles, and the relatively new form of motorcycles called e-bikes are rapidly expanding.

User groups such as bicycles and motorized users work to find grants and put together groups to work on trail upkeep. As groups other than hikers and horseback riders are excluded from millions of acres of forest it leaves less users to do trail maintenance, leaving trails in disrepair.

In the case of wilderness it can't be effectively managed for wildfires leaving millions of acres at risk for catastrophic wildfire.

As per the issues with limited usability, underwhelming trail maintenance, and high wildfire risk I see no reason to recommend more wilderness. Adding more recommended wilderness will only cause greater issues within the forest and has not positive benefit. Please do not increase recommended wilderness to the detriment of all user bases.

The multiple use community has lost more than 22,000 miles of roads on federally managed public lands in Montana since 1995. It couldn't possibly be more clear that the managers of Montana's public lands don't consider user bases other than hikers and horseback riders when making decisions. Nowhere in any of these documents are there area's for improved multiple use. In a best case scenario bicycles and motorized users get to keep what we have today, after having lost 22,000 miles of roads. We need to not only gain back those 22,000 miles of roads that were taken from us but we also need to increase the road and trail mileage on national forests for all users. Please add areas for new trail systems within the forest plan.