

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 5/22/2019 8:01:15 AM

First name: Randall

Last name: Russo

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 719 S Church Ave #8

Address2:

City: Bozeman

State: MT

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 59715

Country: United States

Email: russorandall@gmail.com

Phone: 406-214-8125

Comments:

As an avid mt. biker and hiker in the Bozeman area I am writing in support of the Gallatin Forest Partnership Agreement and keeping bicycle access in the Buffalo/Porcupine and Lionshead area.

The Gallatin Forest Partnership Agreement clearly shows many user groups working together to find common ground, creating a solution that I support.

As a member of SWMMBA, each year I volunteer many hours to help maintain the trails I love, Lionshead is one of those. Each year 50-70 mt. bikers and backcountry horseman come together and spend a weekend maintaining the Lionshead area. It brings together many good people donating their time to trails and gives me access to some amazing backcountry that would be difficult to cover by foot in a reasonable time frame.

Bicycle access is not creating more wildlife disruption than any other user group. Bicyclist are a smaller segment of trail users and they give as much time back to trails as other groups in the region. If the argument to restrict bicycles is to save wildlife and improve migration patterns than focus should first be on highway wildlife bridges and overpasses as vehicles are the greater risk to wildlife. Thank you.