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Comments:

Southwest Montana is unparalleled for providing some of the most remote and pristine environments in the world, while also providing us the gift to access these places. The proposal in place by The Gallatin Forest Partnership offers the best combination of protection and access. The reason I continue to reside in this portion of the world, as is the case for so many residents, is to enjoy the surrounding environment. Access to this land via mountain bike is an essential part of my life. Designating popular biking areas as wilderness may protect these trails and certain species, but it will certainly overcrowd and destroy those where biking is permitted. There are too many residents in the Gallatin Valley to restrict mountain biking to just a few areas. The GFP proposal will maintain this access while bolstering protection.