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Comments:

I congratulate you on the proposal to protect the Lionhead area as a wilderness. Wildlife habitat must be protected from excessive human intrusion.

In gathering public comments the Forest Service is reliant on hearing from those who know about the plans and in many cases have well organized lobbying groups to solicit letter writing campaigns. I urge you to also consider National Recreational Trends as tracked yearly by the Outdoor Recreation Foundation surveys. Find the most recent report her <https://outdoorindustry.org/resource/2018-outdoor-participation-report/> Data on page 37 show that between 2007 and 2017 hiking increased from 29 million to 44 million participants, wildlife viewing has been steady at around 20 million and trail running has increased from 4.2 to 9.1 million. Meanwhile mountain biking has only increased from 6.8 to 8.6 million in that time and in the past 4 years has increased less than 1%. Mountain bikers penetrate our natural areas to a greater degree than those on foot. They put other wilderness users at risk for injury. They have encounters with wildlife such as bears and cougars that can be fatal for both people and ultimately wildlife. There is generous access to our shared public lands for cyclists. Please be firm in setting aside wilderness areas where this use is not allowed. Protect our wildlife and their habitat.

Thank you