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Custer Gallatin National Forest
Attn: Forest Plan Revision Team
P.O. Box 130, (10 E Babcock)
Bozeman, MT 59771

June 3, 2019

Custer Gallatin National Forest Plan Revision Team,

I appreciate the chance to submit comments on the Forest Plan Revision. Short version: I support Option E with a strong suggestion to make the Lionhead a Backcountry Area (BCA) or Special Management Area (SMA).

Long version: with a focus on the Henry's Lake Range, aka the Lionhead, which is one of my favorite places in the world to ride my bike. Alpine singletrack is rare and aesthetic, and this in particular is worth reserving for our human-powered pursuits. I strongly believe that wildlife and mountain bikers can coexist peacefully. Often times, this coexistence requires seasonal restrictions or other administrative action but in the grand scheme of things, I do not believe that mountain bikers exude no more disturbance on wildlife than hikers or equestrian users. An exhaustive research review, recently conducted by the board and staff at the group Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz (MBOSC) has provided a number of excellent resources on this particular topic (<http://mbosc.org/2019/04/introducing-mtb-impact-review/>). Simply put, we strongly believe that given this research and given the position of the Gallatin Forest Partnership, bikes belong in the Lionhead.

Mountain bikers have been constructing legally sanctioned trails and maintaining these and other existing trails in the Lionhead since 2006. My husband and I have assisted with these trail work days over the years and make regular trips to the region to work alongside the Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association with these projects. This work is a shining example of collaborative stewardship as multiple stakeholders (mountain bikers, horseback riders and motorized user groups) have worked together build and maintain trails in the area. Within this spirit, I broadly support the Gallatin Forest Partnership and its collaborative approach to addressing issues on the CGNF through their mutual connection and passion for southwest Montana's Gallatin and Madison Ranges.

I strongly believe that managing the valuable Lionhead area as "Special Management Area" (SMA) or a "Backcountry Area" (BCA) as described in Alternative E of the Forest Plan Revision is best. Administrative management prescriptions that would maintain the Lionhead's position on the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum while preserving the ecological characteristics and value of the area can best be attained through management as a SMA or BCA: these are the most consistent methods to keep things the way

they are now, maintaining bike access. Other alternatives mentioned in the Plan leave part or all of Lionhead closed to “mechanized travel” like mountain biking. As mentioned previously, I value the rugged, remote, natural feel and do not feel that mountain bikers degrade this character in any way by simply riding a bicycle there. If anything, mountain bikers have left the area better than we found it, volunteering thousands of hours of trail work over the years.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Lynne Wolfe