

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 5/12/2019 11:14:41 PM

First name: Perry

Last name: Beckman

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 45 Beverley court

Address2:

City: Belgrade

State: MT

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 59714

Country: United States

Email: Summersucks.tb@gmail.com

Phone: 4065991822

Comments:

As an avid snowmobiler and 5th generation Montanan, it breaks my heart to see the land I grew up on now being threatened with closure. We already lost a ton of motorized use in this forest back when the travel management plan came out over a decade ago, I can't stand to see more areas taken from us. Environmental groups constantly mislead the public into thinking that wilderness designation is the only way to protect public land. In reality, responsible use does nothing to harm the environment whether you're on foot or something with a motor. People complain about noise, but there are already far more places to go that you won't hear a motor. In the canyon there are only really 3 snowmobile trails, yet there are dozens of trailheads that skiers can use all around Big Sky and through the park until you're almost to West yellowstone. Even in the Snowmobile capital of the world there are plenty of skier-only trails for the non- motorized crowd to enjoy.

In the fall I also enjoy hunting, but it's nearly impossible to find public land worth hunting around Bozeman. Everything that's close to the highway is too crowded, and many of the areas we used to go to get away from the crowds have been gated off, or the roads have been left to deteriorate to the point they're impassable. I'm no road Hunter, but the good spots just aren't doable within a day anymore due to inaccessibility. I'm a student at MSU and also work 30-35 hours a week so I just don't have the time to do multi-day trips on foot, and I would say most local hunters aren't able to do trips like that either, whether because of time or physical condition. I think Loss of access has had a negative impact on the numbers of successful hunters around here, and I'm sure in many other places in the western united states are experiencing the same thing.

We don't need any more wilderness areas, we need to keep or public lands accessible to ALL of those who wish to enjoy them, whether skiers, snowmobiles, dirt bikers, or dog walkers. This land belongs to all of us and we should all have the opporrunity to enjoy it no matter what our preferred method of travel may be.