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Comments:

Hello and thank you for your work with the Custer Gallatin national forest. I wanted to take the time to tell you how much I enjoy our public lands and what they have done for me.

I'm an avid mountain biker, backpacker and fly fisherman and spend almost every weekend outdoors exploring the natural wonders of the state of Montana. As an introvert, I enjoy my time alone and strive to find solitude within nature. This is becoming increasingly difficult as more people move to the region and more trails limit access. With the Trail networks we currently have in Bozeman, I find it very difficult to get away from others and enjoy my time, so I tend to travel further off the beaten path to areas that allow me this access. In limiting these others areas, it ultimately drives more people back to the Bozeman-area trails, leaving them severely overcrowded and overused. Just the other day while biking, I ran across over 30 people on a short 4-mile out and back within Bozeman. The whole ride down was spent pulling over to the side and letting people pass. Though I got outside to enjoy the sunshine, I did not have any fun, and my stress levels rose instead of diminished.

In limiting access to areas such as Lionhead, you're basically increasing overuse of other trails, causing more confrontation between recreationalists such as hikers bikers and equestrians. Forcing these trails users to give up some of their most beloved areas would be catastrophic to our already-established trails within the region and cause more harm than good within the community as a whole.

Thank you for taking the time in reading this comment. I'm sure you all have a lot of others to go through but it means a lot to make my voice heard within this growing community.