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Comments:

I am an avid outdoors person who loves to hike and bike. I am commenting on the upcoming forest service plans for the Lionhead and Bridger Range areas. I have mountain biked in both areas and love the riding in these areas. I would not like to see them closed to mountain biking as I feel that both areas offer outstanding destination mountain biking. In particular the trails, views, and character of the Lionhead area are world class.

I realize there are many competing concerns for these areas such as grizzly habitat and the character of wilderness. However I don't feel that the level of mountain biking these areas will see, will diminish these qualities. If anything mountain biking is an entry way for people new to wilderness/outdoor opportunities to begin to see why Wilderness is valuable.

I know that in the lower 48 most Wilderness is managed for non-mechanized use. I don't propose changing that status for already established areas but I feel new areas of Wilderness that have historical mountain bike use should continue to allow mountain bikes. There is precedence for this historical use in the designated Wilderness areas of Alaska.

I support any options that will preserve mountain biking in both the Lionhead and Bridger Ranges.

Thanks for your time

Allen O'Bannon