Dan Cottrell
722 Cherry Street
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Ravalli County Commissioners

Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S. 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, Montana, 59840

Dear Sir or Madam,

To begin, I would like to thank the Bitterroot National Forest for giving the public the opportunity to comment on the current forest travel plan. I understand how difficult it can be to balance the needs of conservation, wise use, and public access. It is however, essential that we as stewards of public lands protect as much of the Bitterroot National Forest as a quiet place free from motorized off-road vehicles. The Bitterroot National Forest has unique and substantial value as a quiet place free from the abuses that unfortunately accompany off-road vehicle use. Natural processes and wildlife protection is best guaranteed by the absence of roads or off-road vehicles. Places of silence and solitude are disappearing rapidly, and this is a special opportunity for us to protect these qualities.

I have spent a good deal of time on the Bitterroot National Forest and realize its value as unique and incredibly wild places. They truly are a national treasure and deserve to be protected for their ecological diversity as well as their cultural and historic value. Look to their future as wild and unspoiled places free from the noise and damage of off-road vehicles! I ask that you include this letter in the official record of the Bitterroot travel plan.

Thanks for your time,

Dan Cottrell