

PROTECT WILDERNESS FROM BIKES

Adirondack Wild, Friends of the Forest Preserve • Aldo's Silver City Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Alliance for the Wild Rockies • Alpine Lakes Protection Society • Amargosa Conservancy • Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc. • Arizona Wilderness Coalition • Big Wild Adventures • Big Wild Advocates • Bitterroot Back Country Horsemen of MT • Blue Ridge Land Conservancy • Boise Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Bozeman Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Buckeye Forest Council • California Chaparral Institute • California Wilderness Coalition • Californians for Western Wilderness • Cascade Volcanoes Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Conservation Congress • Conservation Northwest • Cook Inletkeeper • Environmental Protection Information Center • Fairmont Minnesota Peace Group • Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs • Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics • Friends of Allegheny Wilderness • Friends of Bell Smith Springs • Friends of Nevada Wilderness • Friends of Sylvania Wilderness • Friends of the Bitterroot • Friends of the Clearwater • Friends of the Wild Swan • Georgia ForestWatch • Gifford Pinchot Task Force • Grand Junction Area Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Great Plains Restoration Council • Greater Wasatch Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Harding Land Trust • Heartwood • Hells Canyon Preservation Council • High Country Conservation Advocates • High Sierra Hikers Association • Hunters for Predators • Idaho Environmental Council • Idaho Rivers United • Kentucky Heartwood • Kettle Range Conservation Group • Klamath Forest Alliance • Kootenai Environmental Alliance • Lands Council • Massachusetts Forest Watch • Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy • Moab Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Montanans for Gallatin Wilderness • Mountain Bikers for Wilderness • New Mexico Wilderness Alliance • North Cascades Conservation Council • North Fork Preservation Association • Northeast Wilderness Trust • Northern San Juan Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Olympic Park Associates • Palouse Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Phoenix Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Polly Dyer Cascadia Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) • Quiet Use Coalition • RESTORE: The North Woods • Rewilding Institute • Rio Grande Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • River Runners for Wilderness • Roaring Fork Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • San Juan Citizens Alliance • Save America's Forests • Save Our Canyons • Save Our Sky Blue Waters • Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association • Scholarly Brass Editions • Selkirk Conservation Alliance • Selway-Pintler Wilderness Back Country Horsemen • Sequoia ForestKeeper • Shawnee Forest Sentinels • Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute • Sleeping Bear Naturally • South Florida Wildlands Association • South Park Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing Our Environment • Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance • Speak Up for Wildlife Foundation • Steamboat Springs Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Swan View Coalition • Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning • Tennessee Heartwood • Teton Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • 3 Great Lakes Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Tucson Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Tuleyome • Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition • Walden Woods Project • Wasatch Mountain Club • Western Lands Project • Western Watersheds Project • Western Wildlife Conservancy • White Mountain Conservation League • Wild Connections • Wild Utah Project • Wild Virginia • Wild Wilderness • WildEarth Guardians • Wilderness Watch • Wilderness Workshop • WildWest Institute • Willamette Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Wyoming Back Country Horsemen of America • Wyoming Wilderness Association • Yellowstone to Uintas Connection

March 22, 2016

Dear Member of Congress,

The 116 undersigned organizations urge you to reject calls to amend the Wilderness Act to allow for the use of mountain bikes in designated Wilderness.

As you may know, some mountain bikers and a mountain biking organization, the Sustainable Trails Coalition, have announced its intention to have legislation introduced in Congress to amend the Wilderness Act to allow mountain bikes in units of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The undersigned organizations strongly urge you to oppose this effort.

These mountain bikers erroneously claim that mountain bikes were allowed in Wilderness until 1984, but then banned administratively by the U.S. Forest Service. This claim is simply not true.

The 1964 Wilderness Act (36 U.S.C. 1131-1136) banned all types of bicycles as well as all other forms of mechanical transportation in designated Wilderness. Section 4(c) of that act states, “[T]here shall be...no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, **no other form of mechanical transport**, and no structure or installation within any such area.” (emphasis added).

Furthermore, the Congress stated the purpose of the Wilderness Act was, in part, to protect these areas from “expanding settlement and **growing mechanization**...” (emphasis added) (Wilderness Act, Section 2[a].)

For over a half century, the Wilderness Act has protected wilderness areas designated by Congress from mechanization and mechanical transport, even if no motors were involved with such activities. This has meant, as Congress intended, that Wildernesses have been kept free from bicycles and other types of mechanization and mechanical transport. The undersigned believe that this protection has served our Nation well, and that the “benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness” would be forever lost by allowing mechanized transport in these areas.

Please oppose attempts to weaken the Wilderness Act and wilderness protections by allowing bicycles in Wilderness.

Sincerely,

Wilderness Watch
Missoula, MT

Adirondack Wild, Friends of the Forest Preserve
Niskayuna, NY

Aldo’s Silver City Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Silver City, NM

Alliance for the Wild Rockies
Helena, MT

Alpine Lakes Protection Society
Seattle, WA

Amargosa Conservancy
Shoshone, CA

Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
Cambridge, MA

Arizona Wilderness Coalition
Tucson, AZ

Big Wild Adventures
Emigrant, MT

Big Wild Advocates
Emigrant, MT

Bitterroot Back Country Horsemen of MT
Hamilton, MT

Blue Ridge Land Conservancy
Roanoke, VA

Boise Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Boise, ID

Bozeman Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Bozeman, MT

Buckeye Forest Council
Athens, OH

California Chaparral Institute
Escondido, CA

California Wilderness Coalition
Oakland, CA

Californians for Western Wilderness
San Francisco, CA

Cascade Volcanoes Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Milwaukie, OR

Conservation Congress
Livingston, MT

Conservation Northwest
Bellingham, WA

Cook Inletkeeper
Homer, AK

Environmental Protection Information Center
Arcata, CA

Fairmont Minnesota Peace Group
Fairmont, MN

Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs
Oak Grove, OR

Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics
Eugene, OR

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness
Warren, PA

Friends of Bell Smith Springs
Stonefort, IL

Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Reno, NV

Friends of Sylvania Wilderness
Monona, WI

Friends of the Bitterroot
Hamilton, MT

Friends of the Clearwater
Moscow, ID

Friends of the Wild Swan
Bigfork, MT

Georgia ForestWatch
Dahlonega, GA

Gifford Pinchot Task Force
Vancouver, WA

Grand Junction Area Broadband, Great Old Broads
for Wilderness,
Grand Junction, CO

Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Durango, CO

Great Plains Restoration Council
Fort Worth, TX

Greater Wasatch Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Salt Lake City, UT

Harding Land Trust
Harding, NJ

Heartwood
Bloomington, IN

Hells Canyon Preservation Council
La Grande, OR

High Country Conservation Advocates
Crested Butte, CO

High Sierra Hikers Association
Lafayette, CA

Hunters for Predators
Bend, OR

Idaho Environmental Council
Idaho Falls, ID

Idaho Rivers United
Boise, ID

Kentucky Heartwood
Berea, KY

Kettle Range Conservation Group
Republic, WA

Klamath Forest Alliance
Orleans, CA

Kootenai Environmental Alliance
Coeur d'Alene, ID

Lands Council
Spokane, WA

Massachusetts Forest Watch
Northampton, MA

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
St. Paul, MN

Moab Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Moab, UT

Montanans for Gallatin Wilderness
Bozeman, MT

Mountain Bikers for Wilderness
Bend, OR

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
Albuquerque, NM

North Cascades Conservation Council
Seattle, WA

North Fork Preservation Association
Polebridge, MT

Northeast Wilderness Trust
Montpelier, VT

Northern San Juan Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Ridgway, CO

Olympic Park Associates
Seattle, WA

Palouse Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Moscow, ID

Phoenix Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Phoenix, AZ

Polly Dyer Cascadia Broadband, Great Old Broads
for Wilderness
Olympia, WA

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
(PEER)
Washington, DC

Quiet Use Coalition
Salida, CO

RESTORE: The North Woods
Hallowell, ME

Rewilding Institute
Albuquerque, NM

Rio Grande Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Albuquerque, NM

River Runners for Wilderness
Flagstaff, AZ

Roaring Fork Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads
for Wilderness
Aspen, CO

San Juan Citizens Alliance
Durango, CO

Save America's Forests
Washington, DC

Save Our Canyons
Salt Lake City, UT

Save Our Sky Blue Waters
Duluth, MN

Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association
Stanley, ID

Scholarly Brass Editions
Chicago, IL

Selkirk Conservation Alliance
Priest River, ID

Selway-Pintler Wilderness Back Country Horsemen
Hamilton, MT

Sequoia ForestKeeper
Kernville, CA

Shawnee Forest Sentinels
Anna, IL

Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute
Ashland, WI

Sleeping Bear Naturally
Glen Arbor, MI

South Florida Wildlands Association
Fort Lauderdale, FL

South Park Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Greenwood Village, CO

Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing Our
Environment
Vienna, IL

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Salt Lake City, UT

Speak Up for Wildlife Foundation
Penticton, BC, Canada

Steamboat Springs Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Steamboat Springs, CO

Swan View Coalition
Kalispell, MT

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
Oak Ridge, TN

Tennessee Heartwood
Chattanooga, TN

Teton Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Alta, WY

3 Great Lakes Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Cedarville, MI

Tucson Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Tucson, AZ

Tuleyome
Woodland, CA

Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition
Houghton, MI

Walden Woods Project
Lincoln, MA

Wasatch Mountain Club
Salt Lake City, UT

Western Lands Project
Seattle, WA

Western Watersheds Project
Hailey, ID

Western Wildlife Conservancy
Salt Lake City, UT

White Mountain Conservation League
Pinetop, AZ

Wild Connections
Colorado Springs, CO

Wild Utah Project
Salt Lake City, UT

Wild Virginia
Charlottesville, VA

Wild Wilderness
Bend, OR

WildEarth Guardians
Santa Fe, NM

Wilderness Workshop
Carbondale, CO

WildWest Institute
Missoula, MT

Willamette Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Philomath, OR

Wyoming Back Country Horsemen of America
Buffalo, WY

Wyoming Wilderness Association
Sheridan, WY

Yellowstone to Uintas Connection
Paris, ID