

## **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 • 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 115 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

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