

Why Mountain Bikers Support the *Forest Jobs and Recreation Act*

- Includes a permanent guarantee that non-motorized mountain bike use “shall be permitted” in recreation and protection areas
- Permanently protects bicycle access to more than 500 miles of trails in the Pioneers, Flints and on the Continental Divide
- Allows mountain bikers to be directly involved in helping land managers expand and create new mountain bike trails as part of collaborative stewardship projects
- Mountain bikers will enjoy access to 383 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, including popular riding areas near Butte.
- Designates ten recreation and wilderness areas supported by Montana mountain bike clubs in the Pioneers, Flint Creek, Tobacco Roots and along the Continental Divide
- Authorizes reclamation of old roads into forest recreation trails.

More Details:

Will wilderness areas be closed to mountain biking? Yes, wilderness areas are special places where we leave our wheels behind. Wilderness is a place where the slow pace of nature is allowed to continue uninterrupted. The 1964 Wilderness Act precludes roads, permanent structures, motor vehicles, motorboats, aircraft landings and mechanical transport. By accepting those limits to our usual urban ways we preserve and pass on the backcountry traditions that help make Montana special.

How many areas and trails will be open to mountain biking after passage? The Forest Jobs and Recreation Act designates wilderness, recreation areas and stewardship logging on three national forests and BLM lands in the Butte Resource Area.

Why doesn't the bill allow mountain biking in Monture Creek ? The U S Forest Service has recommended Monture Creek for inclusion in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The Seeley Lake Ranger District believes that encouraging fast-moving bicycle use on wilderness “pack” trails would increase conflicts with wilderness and reduce safe travel by packstrings and families on foot and horseback.

What groups in the mountain biking community support the bill? Highlands Cycling Club, Helena Bicycle Club, and Great Divide Cycling Team support the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act.

How has the mountain biking community affected the bill? A group of mountain bikers, horsemen and women, hikers, and wilderness advocates have worked to create a cooperative vision known as Montana High Divide Trails. The cooperative

“team” approach of Montana High Divide Trails has enabled nine diverse outdoor groups to offer unified recommendations for trails, travel plans and congressional legislation to achieve mutually-beneficial goals for quiet trails—including mountain bike trails—and wilderness in southwest Montana.