

September 23, 2024

Re: Seeley Lake Trail Development

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Mountain Bike Missoula to convey support for the project proposed by Scenic Montana Trails to develop a multi-use trail network on public land near Seeley Lake.

The project should benefit residents and visitors to Seeley Lake and Missoula County by expanding recreation opportunities through new trails. Desire for natural surface trail development ranks highly among respondents of the MT Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as well as the Missoula County Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Plan.

This project wisely builds upon existing recreation infrastructure including trailheads while expanding four-season trail options. In addition to the current nordic ski use, the new trails are planned in a way to appeal to a diverse set of users, including: mountain bikers of varying skill levels, hikers, snow shoers and fat tire bikers in the winter. The design differentiates trails between types of uses to reduce conflict between winter and summer use.

As Missoula's mountain biking association, we appreciate the effort to plan a trail system that will appeal to a range of rider skill levels. There is low angle, but steadily rising terrain conducive to an easy climbing trail and beginner/intermediate flow trail descent. The other terrain sections are significantly more steep and will be challenging for exceptional and varied downhill riding. These types of trail systems reflect the evolution in outdoor recreation demand and should be a unique amenity to Seeley Lake. We would expect additional tourism revenues as is typical when a trail system offers something for everyone.

We further support this project because it's being driven by community members but with strong collaboration from numerous partners. This model in project development is most likely to be inclusive and return a winning outcome for both the community and the land managers.

Sincerely,



John Stegmaier  
Mountain Bike Missoula



## Seeley Lake Community Council

PO Box 30

Seeley Lake, Montana 59868



**Tom Browder, Chair**  
**Bruce Friede, Vice Chair**  
**Sally Johnson, Treasurer**  
**Sharon Teague, Secretary**

**Garry Swain, Member**  
**John Richards, Member**  
**Jeannette Smith, Member**



November 11, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

The members of the Seeley Lake Community Council highly endorse the expanded bike trail project that Cathy Kahnle and Scenic Montana Trails group are proposing for the area near the existing Nordic trail system.

Community members and visitors alike are drawn to the beauty of our area and look for opportunities to recreate here year-round. This project appears to propose low impact recreation for bicycle enthusiasts to enjoy during any season. The council appreciates the group's well thought out plans and believes that this project would have numerous benefits to our town.

We hope that you will agree with us that the proposed expanded bike trail system is a worthy endeavor, and that you will join us in supporting its continued development.

Respectfully,

Tob Browder  
Chairman  
Seeley Lake Community Council



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Lolo National Forest  
Seeley Lake Ranger District  
406 677-2233

3583 Hwy 83  
Seeley Lake, MT 59868

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File Code: 2700

Quinn Carver  
Seeley Lake Ranger District  
3583 Hwy 83  
Seeley Lake, MT 59868  
charles.carver@usda.gov

October 1, 2024

Bethany Holland  
Grants Administrator  
Missoula County  
[bholland@missoulacounty.us](mailto:bholland@missoulacounty.us)  
200 W. Broadway, Missoula,  
MT 59802

Dear Bethany,

The Seeley Lake Ranger District supports Scenic Montana Trail's (SMT) efforts seeking grant funding for the construction of bicycle trails at the Lolo National Forest's Seeley Creek Trailhead. During the summer of 2024 - SMT, Seeley Lake Nordic Club, and the Forest Service contracted Brian Williams of Radius Trails to conduct route surveys. The Forest Service, with the assistance from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is currently conducting the environmental analysis which includes evaluating 28.4 miles of proposed bicycle routes. The analysis is part of the Highway 83 Wildland Urban Interface project (vegetative treatment). We expect a signed decision during the winter of 2025.

Post vegetative treatment-the district will continue to pursue funding opportunities for construction bicycle trails originating from the Seeley Creek Trailhead. Concentrating use here will create year-round recreation opportunities in Seeley Lake. Recreation managers realize that opportunities for bicycles is currently limited. Our belief is that trails designed for cyclists will allow many to experience the natural beauty of the Seeley Swan area without adversely impacting traditional trail users.

Sincerely,

Quinn Carver

Seeley Lake District Ranger



# Single Track Trails

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Chris Lorentz [chris.lorentz@gmail.com](mailto:chris.lorentz@gmail.com)

matthew.walter@usda.gov

Laurie Shammel [laurieshammel@gmail.com](mailto:laurieshammel@gmail.com), Darren Zellman [darrenzellman@icloud.com](mailto:darrenzellman@icloud.com),

Brie Guilmette [brieguilmette@gmail.com](mailto:brieguilmette@gmail.com), Cathy Kahnle [cathy@kahnlelaw.com](mailto:cathy@kahnlelaw.com)

Tue, Mar 26, 2024, 3:37 PM

Matt Walter

USDA Forest Service, Seeley Lake Ranger District

The Seeley Lake Nordic Ski Club (SLN) supports the design and future construction of single track bike and hiking trails where appropriate within the area Seeley Creek Nordic Ski Trails. SLN is partnering with SMT, MTN Bike Missoula and Seeley Lake Rocks to cooperatively develop more bike opportunities in the Seeley Lake area. The Seeley Lake Nordic Ski Club requests that the USFS consult with SLNSC on location and design to avoid any potential conflicts.

Chris Lorentz

President

Seeley Lake Nordic Ski Club

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PO Box 33, Seeley Lake, MT 59868 - [seeleylakerocks@gmail.com](mailto:seeleylakerocks@gmail.com) - 406-499-2966

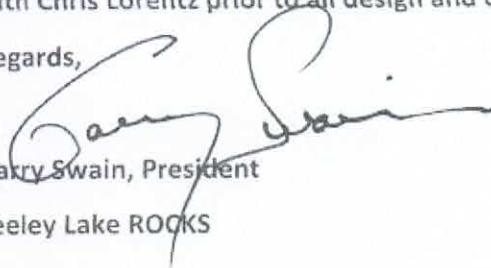
May 20, 2024

Cathy Kahnle  
Scenic Montana Trails  
[cathy@kahnlelaw.com](mailto:cathy@kahnlelaw.com)

Dear Cathy:

Seeley Lake ROCKS supports the design and future construction of single-track bike and hiking trails where appropriate within the area Seeley Creek Nordic Ski Trails. I ask that you work with Chris Lorentz prior to all design and construction efforts.

Regards,

  
Gary Swain, President

Seeley Lake ROCKS



December 29, 2025

Dear Missoula County Commissioners,

On behalf of the Seeley Lake Community Foundation, I am writing to express our strong support for the Seeley Lake Trail System project.

This project represents an important investment in the health, vitality, and future of our community. Close-to-home trail access encourages healthy lifestyles for residents of all ages, creates safe and positive outdoor opportunities for youth, and strengthens Seeley Lake's identity as a place where recreation and quality of life go hand in hand. The trail system will also support local businesses by attracting visitors who stay longer, spend locally, and return throughout the year.

The Community Foundation sees this project as a practical way to support community well-being, youth participation in the outdoors and economic resilience, particularly as Seeley Lake continues to diversify beyond its timber economy. The collaborative approach led by Scenic Montana Trails and their partners reflects the kind of community-driven investment we believe is essential for long-term success.

We appreciate Missoula County's continued commitment to rural communities and strongly encourage your support of the Seeley Lake Trail System through the County Trails Bond program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire".

Claire Muller  
Executive Director  
Seeley Lake Community Foundation  
[claire@slcfmt.org](mailto:claire@slcfmt.org)



**Letter of Support**

**Seeley Lake Trail System**

Sam Schultz

League Director, Montana Interscholastic Cycling League

[sam@montanamtb.org](mailto:sam@montanamtb.org) - 406-531-1275

610 South Ave E, Missoula, MT 59801

To whom it may concern,

As the League Director of the Montana Interscholastic Cycling League (MICL), I am writing to express my strong support for the Seeley Lake Mountain Bike and Multi-Use Trail System. This project represents an extraordinary opportunity for Seeley Lake, the surrounding region, and the broader Montana outdoor community.

The professionally designed, 25-mile stacked-loop system outlined in the Trails Plan prepared by Radius Trail Solutions offers what few rural communities in Montana currently have: a purpose-built, progressive trail network where riders of all ages and abilities can safely learn, grow, and thrive. The inclusion of beginner, intermediate, and advanced trails makes this system uniquely inclusive and aligned with MICL and NICA's mission to get more kids on bikes and to foster lifelong confidence, resilience, and connection with the outdoors.

From MICL's perspective, this system also holds significant promise as a future race venue. The terrain, trail layout, and an expanded Nordic trailhead area would create a great event space capable of hosting one of our league races. Bringing hundreds of student-athletes and their families to Seeley Lake each season would provide not only a high-quality racing experience, but also meaningful economic benefit to the community — particularly important following the closure of Pyramid Lumber and other recent local challenges. Communities that host MICL events routinely report increased business for restaurants, lodging, gas stations, and outdoor-oriented shops, as well as a lasting uptick in trail-based tourism.

The Seeley Lake Trails Plan is especially compelling because it is shovel-ready, NEPA-approved, and grounded in the work of respected partners including Scenic Montana Trails, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Seeley Lake Nordic Club. The dedication already shown by local volunteers reflects genuine community commitment. Scenic Montana Trails'

investment in equipment to accelerate construction further demonstrates readiness and long-term stewardship capacity.

Most importantly, these trails would provide Seeley Lake youth and families with year-round access to safe, healthy outdoor recreation. A project like this creates pathways for kids to stay active, discover mountain biking, develop new skills, and feel proud of the place they call home. It gives volunteers a meaningful way to connect, contribute, and inspire the next generation. And it positions Seeley Lake as a growing regional hub for recreation and tourism.

On behalf of the Montana Interscholastic Cycling League, I strongly and enthusiastically support this project. The Seeley Lake community is fortunate to have visionary leadership and motivated partners working together to bring it to life. I look forward to continued collaboration, and I am excited about the possibility of incorporating this trail system into future MICL events.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

**Sam Schultz**

League Director, Montana Interscholastic Cycling League



December 17, 2025

Re: Seeley Lake Trail Development

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Missoula Mountain Bike Coalition to convey support for the project proposed by Scenic Montana Trails to develop a multi-use trail network on public land near Seeley Lake.

The project should benefit residents and visitors to Seeley Lake and Missoula County by expanding recreation opportunities with new trail facilities. The MT Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as well as the Missoula County Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Plan found that respondents are highly interested in seeing development of additional natural-surface trails.

This project wisely builds upon existing recreation infrastructure including trailheads while expanding four-season trail options. In addition to the current nordic ski use, the new trails are planned in such a way to appeal to a diverse set of users, including: mountain bikers of varying skill levels, hikers, snowshoers and fat tire bikers in the winter. The design differentiates trails between types of uses to reduce conflict between winter and summer use.

As Missoula's mountain biking association, we appreciate the effort to plan a trail system that will appeal to a range of rider skill levels. There is low angle, but steadily rising terrain conducive to an easy climbing trail and beginner/intermediate descending flow trails. The steeper terrain sections of the area hold potential to provide exceptional and varied downhill riding. These types of trail systems reflect the evolution in outdoor recreation demand and should be a unique amenity to Seeley Lake. We would expect additional tourism revenues as is typical when a trail system offers something for everyone.

We further support this project because it's being driven by community members but with strong collaboration from numerous partners. This model in project development is most likely to be inclusive and return a winning outcome for both the community and the land managers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "JL Stegmaier".

John Stegmaier  
Missoula Mountain Bike Coalition

# SEELEY LAKE NORDIC

**Chris Lorentz**

Seeley Lake Nordic Ski Club  
P.O. Box 428  
Seeley Lake, MT 59868  
(406) 499-2221  
[seeleynordic@gmail.com](mailto:seeleynordic@gmail.com)

20th November 2025

**Cathy Kahnle**

Scenic Montana Trails  
P.O. Box 174  
Seeley Lake, MT 59868

Dear Ms. Kahnle,

Seeley Lake Nordic fully supports the development of single track mountain bike trails at the Seeley Creek Trails. Seeley Lake Nordic works in conjunction with the Lolo National Forest to maintain the Nordic Ski Trails at Seeley Creek. The Single Track Mountain Bike Trails help diversify the recreational opportunities available in the Seeley Swan Valley. This benefits the residents and visitors to our community. Additionally, the winter multi-use trails provide new opportunities as well.

Seeley Lake Nordic and Scenic Montana Trails are working together to enhance recreational opportunities in our community, and this project further solidifies that partnership.

Sincerely,

**Chris Lorentz**

President

Seeley Lake Nordic Ski Club



# Montana State Legislature

## MONTANA SENATE

Senator Becky Beard

Senate District 38

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DURING THE SESSION  
State Capitol Building  
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Helena MT 59620-0500  
Phone: (406) 444-4800  
Web: [legmt.gov](http://legmt.gov)

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Local Government  
Taxation  
Education

HOME ADDRESS  
PO Box 85  
Elliston MT 59728  
Phone: (406) 479-3048  
[Becky.Beard@legmt.gov](mailto:Becky.Beard@legmt.gov)

October 1, 2025

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: Seeley Lake Mountain Bike/Multi-Use Trails

Please accept this letter as my support for the Seeley Lake Mountain Bike Trails projects, spearheaded by the Scenic Montana Trails program of Seeley Lake, Missoula County, Montana. These projects focus on recreational opportunities for not only the local Seeley community with a "backbone" multi-use trail system, but also create access for regional and destination visitors seeking a variety of challenging terrain.

With the recent economic hardships affecting this rural community (infrastructure hurdles and the closure of its primary industry – Pyramid Lumber), Seeley Lake's Scenic Montana Trails program is embarking upon this opportunity to make a significant positive impact on its residents.

The attached *Seeley Lake Mountain Bike Trails Plan*, prepared by Radius Trail Solutions in cooperation with the Seeley Lake Ranger District's Lolo National Forest and the Seeley Lake Nordic Club, presents detailed narrative of the goals, implementation and prioritization of phases, and finally, costs. Based upon the *Plan*, which received NEPA approval in July of this year, the impending construction of multi-use, multi-season recreational trails will usher in much needed economic development to the area. Tourists and destination-driven visitors will be invited to enjoy these trails. As an aside, these trails will likely present an opportunity to function as part of a National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) race course destination for highschool competitions.

Surely, the Seeley Lake community is exploring multiple financial resources, along with volunteer efforts, to bring this overall project to fruition. This *Plan* details a well-thought-out and actionable implementation to promote economic development and sustainability.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN  
October 1, 2025  
Page 2

With the cooperative involvement of all parties involved, I am confident that the Seeley Lake Mountain Bike Trails projects will achieve its goals and create much needed and welcome economic rejuvenation. I wholeheartedly support these projects, and encourage your favorable review.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [becky.beard@legmt.gov](mailto:becky.beard@legmt.gov) if you require further information or assistance.

Thank you for considering this important project.

Respectfully,

*Sen. Becky Beard*

Attachment (*Seeley Lake Mountain Bike Trails Plan*)

e-cc: Scenic Montana Trails



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December 18, 2025

Board of Missoula County Commissioners  
Missoula County  
200 West Broadway  
Missoula, MT 59802

Re: Trails Bond Letter of Support and Commitment

Dear Commissioners,

Scenic Montana Trails (SMT) is pleased to provide this letter in support of the Seeley Lake Trail System. SMT serves as the sponsoring organization for this project and is fully committed to its completion.

SMT has been actively involved in the planning, design, and coordination of the Seeley Lake Trail System in close partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, Missoula County, local stakeholders, and community volunteers. SMT commits to advancing the project through phased implementation as outlined in the adopted Trails Plan.

SMT affirms that the Seeley Lake Trail System resides on public lands and will remain open to the public. The project provides year-round, non-motorized recreation opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages and backgrounds, improve access to public lands, support youth and adaptive recreation, and contributes to the long-term quality of life and economic resilience of the Seeley Lake community.

SMT further affirms its commitment to responsible project oversight, compliance with all applicable grant requirements, and collaboration with Missoula County and partners to ensure the trail system remains a safe, accessible, and well-maintained public asset.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important community project.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Stanley, Secretary  
Scenic Montana Trails  
702-319-1740



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Lolo National Forest  
Seeley Lake Ranger  
District

3583 Highway 83  
Seeley Lake, MT 59868  
(406) 677-2233

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**File Code: 2700**

Date: December 18, 2025

Cathy Kahnle  
SMT Vice President - Mountain Bike Program  
P.O. Box 174  
Seeley Lake, MT 59868  
406-531-4152  
[info@scenicmontanatrails.org](mailto:info@scenicmontanatrails.org)

Dear Cathy Kahnle,

The Seeley Lake Ranger District strongly supports the Scenic Montana Trails (SMT) proposal for the creation of the Seeley Lake Rice Ridge MTB Trails system. The Rice Ridge MTB trail system, which will be administered by the USDA Forest Service in conjunction with SMT, will greatly enhance the recreational and economic opportunities for the public in the Seeley Lake area adding over twenty-six miles of summer and winter multi-use recreational trails.

Over more than twenty years the Seeley Lake Ranger District and SMT have maintained an excellent and close working relationship managing the hundreds of miles of groomed snowmobile trails. We have been impressed with the effort, intensity and speed with which SMT has implemented trail construction on the Seeley Lake Rice Ridge MTB Trail system in 2024. We have full faith and confidence in SMT to assist with the construction, administration and management of the Seeley Lake Rice Ridge MTB Trails system and as such fully support and endorse SMT's application for the Missoula County Level II Trails Bond.

Regards,

KEVIN DOHERTY  
Seeley Lake District Ranger  
Lolo NF, Region 1



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