



peopleforbikes

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March 5, 2022

Superintendent
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
107 Park Headquarters Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Dear Superintendent,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wears Valley Mountain Bike Trail project on National Park Service lands located in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

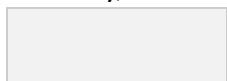
On behalf of the PeopleForBikes Coalition, I am writing in support of the National Park Service's efforts to develop new recreation opportunities on public land for cyclists and mountain bikers. We support proposed Alternatives 2, 3, and 4, which would create between 8.5 - 12.8 miles of new mountain bike trails for users of all ability levels. This includes strong support for Alternative 3, the NPS Preferred Alternative.

The PeopleForBikes Coalition is the national advocacy group and industry association that works for better policies and infrastructure for bike riding. We strive to make bike riding a safer and more inclusive activity for everyone, including those that ride mountain bikes on natural surface-singletrack trails.

PeopleForBikes supports the overarching goal of the Wears Valley Mountain Bike Trail project, of creating more recreational trails, as new natural surface single-track trail construction is urgently needed to help support existing levels of recreation on public lands. We applaud the allowance of bicycles on new trails and are pleased that mountain biking access will be considered as part of the proposed Alternatives 2, 3, and 4. Federal land management agencies are critical to recreation infrastructure, as many of the best mountain biking and bicycling trails in the U.S. are on federal public lands.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. I would welcome the opportunity to provide further information on the potential for creating more trails for use by bicyclists and mountain bikers on federal public lands.

Sincerely,



Rachel Fussell
eMTB Policy & Program Manager
PeopleForBikes Coalition
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