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December 10, 2021

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

*Re: S. 2551 and S. 3264; subcommittee hearing of December 2, 2021*

Dear Senators:

STC is a nonprofit, grass-roots organization with tens of thousands of followers on social media. We work to restore National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park staff discretion to allow mountain biking in Wilderness, and elsewhere where it is also prohibited, on a case-by-case basis.

**S. 2551 (the Bonneville Shoreline Trail bill)**

S. 2551 would swap 19 tiny Wilderness plots, comprising 326.27 acres, that abut the Salt Lake County, Utah, urban area for 326.27 acres of newly designated Wilderness land in the nearby backcountry.

The bill would thus allow completion of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail as a route open to all human-powered travelers, including mountain bikers.

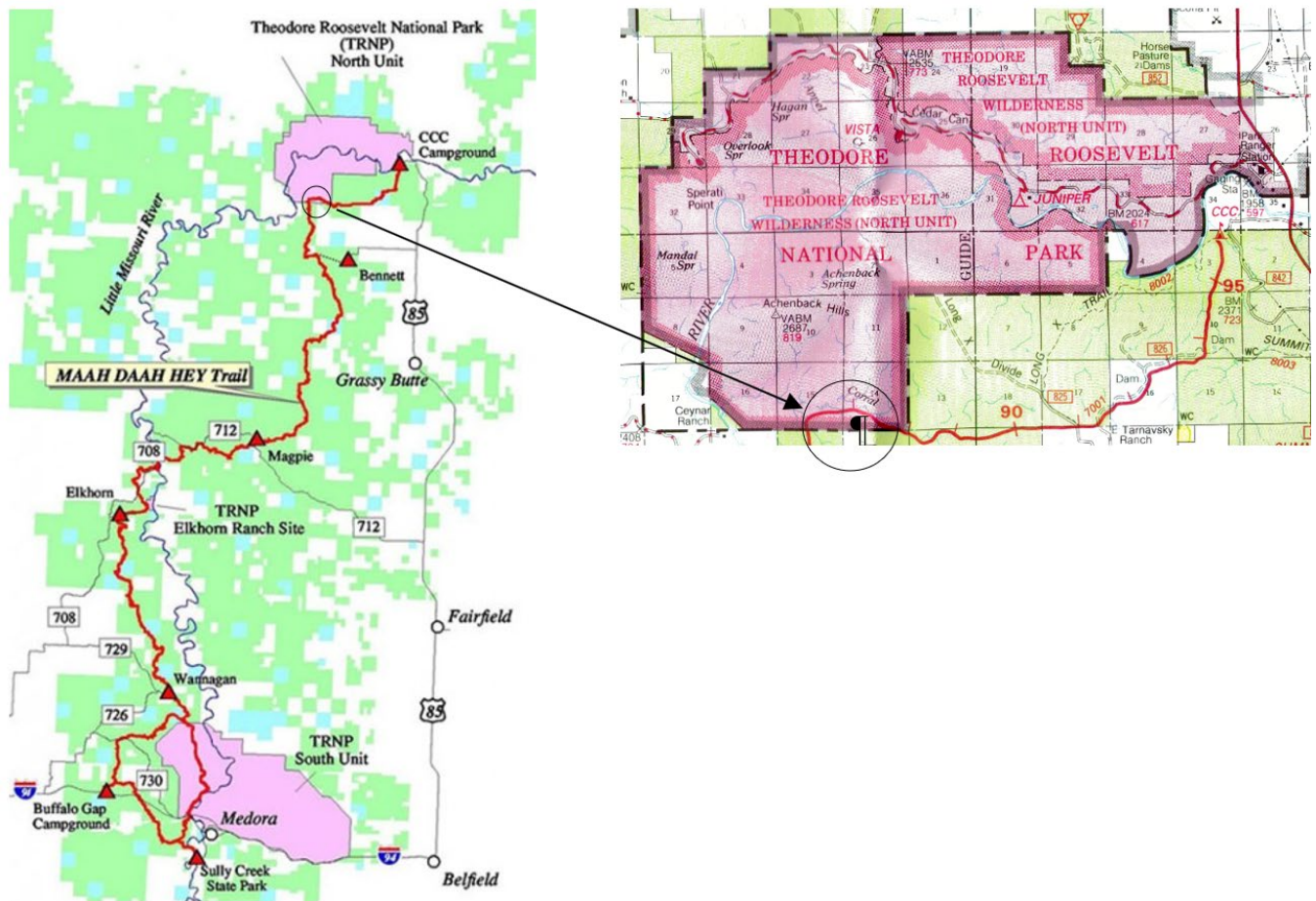
STC endorses this sensible legislation.

### S. 3264 (the long-distance bicycle trails bill)

S. 3264 could allow for a reroute around the north unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park in western North Dakota so that mountain bikers can ride the whole Maah Daah Hey Trail (MDH).

At 144 miles, the MDH is the longest physically uninterrupted singletrack (i.e., narrow) natural dirt trail in the United States on federal land. It is, however, artificially interrupted for mountain bikers.

S. 3264 might encourage the Forest Service and Interior Department to reroute a tiny piece of the MDH that runs along the boundary of Theodore Roosevelt National Park's north unit onto Forest Service land to the south. This would complete the MDH as a bicycle-accessible trail. Currently, because of National Park Service regulations that limit or prohibit mountain biking, mountain bikers must detour tens of miles out of the way, onto dangerous U.S. Highway 85 and a succession of dusty dirt roads to rejoin the MDH south of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park cutout.



At the hearing, the Forest Service testified that S. 3264 is unnecessary because the Forest Service (and presumably also the Interior Department) can do such things without a new law. “USDA

supports the goal of S. 3264 to identify and promote long-distance biking opportunities on National Forest System lands. However, we do not believe legislation is necessary. Consistent with its multiple-use mission, the Forest Service considers mountain biking in the context of all possible types of trail uses on National Forest System trails.” Presumably the DOI shares that view.

STC would be pleased to work with the Forest Service and Interior Department, along with such local stakeholders as the Experience Land organization whose volunteers [maintain](#) the MDH, to reroute the small portion of the MDH in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, so that the trail is a thoroughfare for mountain biking.

We thank the subcommittee for including our views in the record and taking the time to consider them.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted Stroll". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ted Stroll  
STC board president

cc: The Hon. Mike Lee  
The Hon. John Curtis  
The Hon. Tom McClintock  
Mr. Christopher French, USDA Forest Service