

The Forest Service's July 1 Wilderness and Roadless Summary makes five specific points about the California Wilderness Coalition's (CalWild's) wilderness proposals in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Forest Service:

1. Concedes that the Trimmer-Hellhole proposals exclude mountain bike routes.
2. Notes that Hellhole is currently open to OSV use.
3. Concedes that the Meiss-Dardanelles proposal excludes the portion of the Tahoe Rim Trail that is open to mountain bikes.
4. Claims that the Meiss-Dardanelles proposal does not exclude the Big Meadow Trail that connects to the Rim Trail, which is also open to mountain bike use.
5. Claims that the northern boundary of Meiss-Dardanelles is partially within the WUI.

The trails mentioned in points 3 and 4 appear to us to be the same trail that begins at the Big Meadow Trailhead on Highway 89 and proceeds south to the junction with the Pacific Crest Trail. This trail is part of the Tahoe Rim Trail and is entirely excluded from the Meiss-Dardanelles wilderness proposal and therefore may remain open to mountain bikes.

In regard to point 5, the scale of the maps in the LTBMU Forest Plan Revision can be difficult to accurately compare boundaries. It was and is CalWild's intent to exclude all of the WUI from the Meiss-Dardanelles proposal. If the proposal boundary includes any of the WUI, it is entirely inadvertent.

Copies of CalWild's proposal maps are attached.