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David Stowe
Juniper Group Sierra Club
16 NW Kansas Ave.
Bend, OR 97701

January 10, 2014

Dear David,

The Board of Directors of the Central Oregon Trail Alliance (COTA) wishes to extend our support for the Sierra Club's Keep Waldo Wild Campaign. The product of years of collaboration and compromise, this proposal reflects the needs of a changing demographic in the backcountry today and in the future – one that recognizes the legitimacy of mountain biking as a form of recreation that is compatible with wild land preservation. We commend the Sierra Club for this forward-thinking proposal and heartily endorse this campaign to protect the beautiful Roadless areas surrounding Waldo Lake.

The Central Oregon Trail Alliance is dedicated to the stewardship of sustainable human-powered trails and preserving access for mountain bikers through advocacy and education. COTA has built a great reputation in the region for our collaborative partnerships with government agencies and the public at large. Since COTA's inception in 1992 we have worked closely with Federal, State and county land managers to improve mountain biking on public lands. Today, COTA successfully mobilizes support from over 500 dues-paying members and dozens of corporate supporters to plan, develop and maintain over 680 miles of trails throughout the central Oregon region. We are blessed to be so widely supported. In 2013, COTA volunteers logged over 8400 hours of work on behalf of trails in our region.

This collaboration between COTA and The Sierra Club seeking to find common values has enabled us both to work more effectively. We found that working together, we have more in common than differences and this bodes well for the future. Thank you for the opportunity to, not only help preserve the wonderful landscape around Waldo Lake, but also for your recognition of the legitimate place that mountain biking has in the backcountry.

Sincerely,

Woody Starr, Chairman - *for the board*
Central Oregon Trail Alliance