

December 28, 2018

Kevin Warner, Acting District Ranger  
c/o Christopher McDonald  
P.O. Box 309  
Carbondale, CO 81623



Via electronic submission to: <https://cara.ecosystem.org/Public/commentInput?Prroject=55031->  
and via email to: [cmcdonald@fs.fed.us](mailto:cmcdonald@fs.fed.us) & [kwarnar@fs.fed.us](mailto:kwarnar@fs.fed.us)

Dear Mr. Warner and Mr. McDonald,

RE: Notice of Proposed Action for Basalt Mountain Salvage and Rehabilitation Project

Dear Mr. Warner and Mr. McDonald,

The Town of Basalt is hereby submitting the following comments/objections in accordance with the requirements and allowances of the 30-day comment period related to White River National Forest Project No. 55031.

1. Trail Connectivity to Public Lands. The Town's Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Committee met with other groups and discussed the proposed Project. The Committee is interested in creating connections from the Mill Creek Trail, north of the subject area, to the population centers of El Jebel and Basalt. The Committee feels that this may be ideal time to build trails and to make connections.
2. Roadways used by Logging Trucks. Members of Town Staff had the opportunity to attend the recent open house at the Basalt Public Library on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and discuss the Project with Forest Service Staff. The feedback provided by the Forest Service Staff is that logging truck traffic is not expected to use Frying Pan Road to travel to and from the Project locations on Basalt Mountain. Heavy truck traffic through the historic downtown area always remains a primary concern from the perspective of safety for citizens and visitors to the Town.
3. Ecological diversity and sustainability. Historically, fires served an important role in the natural progression and health of the forest and the Town would like the Forest Service to make sure that the islands of unburned trees that provide seed and wildlife security cover are of sufficient size to allow for their purpose. Also, please reinforce that operations will remain away from any riparian areas and wetlands.
4. Assurance for Revegetation if necessary. We understood from the Open House that the "harvested" areas would be monitored to determine if revegetation was necessary and that natural revegetation would always be preferable (for which we can understand the USFS position). However, because of the long timeframe (6-15 years after harvest), the Town has some concerns that this area might be forgotten and revegetation is necessary. Please address our concern.

We are interested in discussing the comments above and would like to remain informed of the Forest Services' response to our comments. Please contact me at [Ryan.Mahoney@basalt.net](mailto:Ryan.Mahoney@basalt.net) or Sara Nadolny, Staff Planner at [Sara.Nadolny@basalt.net](mailto:Sara.Nadolny@basalt.net). Both of us can be reached at 970-927-4701

We appreciate the quick action of the Forest Service in developing this important Project and fully support its goals. The Town looks forward to continuing our partnership with the Forest Service for addressing the safety and other needs of our community.

FOR THE TOWN OF BASALT,

*Ryan Mahoney by Susan Phelps, Planning Director*

Ryan Mahoney  
Basalt Town Manager

cc: Basalt Town Council