

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the North Valley Trails Project.

Overall, I support the plan that was approved by the Gunnison County Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee. This Committee exists to balance the various public lands user groups in the valley, and it conducted extensive discussion and vetting for each of the trails.

Removing Eccher Gulch from the NVTP is a missed opportunity. The existing trail essentially dead ends right before reaching the highway, demonstrating poor forest planning.

I understand that the Snodgrass Public Trail is contentious with various forest users, but it deserves a process to at least hear and record input from all sides.

My specific comments on each trail included in the NVTP are below.

#1 - Lake Irwin Road Parallel Trail

I support the Northern portion of the trail, but request that the USFS reconsider the southern portion of CBMBA's alignment that was labeled "Removed from consideration", which runs from the parking lot at the "Y" to where it intersects with Forest Service Road 826. Currently, riders bypass this existing section of the Wagon Trail because it's not an enjoyable experience, and the CBMBA-proposed alignment is more appealing to riders and encourages users not to ride on the road.

#2 - Upper Upper to Brush Creek Trailhead

- The CBMBA-proposed trail is in a more desirable location.

#3 - Strand Bonus to 409

- I support this trail connector as proposed.

#4 - Budd Connection - Ambush to Tent City

- I support this trail connector as proposed.

#5 - Deer Creek to Tent City

- I request that the northern portion be added back into the plan for consideration.

#6 - Teocalli Extension, #7 - Reno Divide Road Parallel Trail, and #10 - Bear Creek Reroute

- I support this trail as proposed.

#8 - Cement Creek Trail - Upper Cement Trail to Crystal

- I disagree with the NVTP finding and request that this trail is reincluded in the NVTP.
- Riders of all levels currently enjoy using the entire Upper Cement Creek Trail rather than the road, and I disagree with the rationale that an extension of the trail would not be used.
- By extending the Upper Cement Creek Trail, it would increase the length of a well-used out-and-back beginner trail or longer loop option for more advanced riders.
- This area is designated as a recreation corridor, which means it is an ideal place for trails to connect.

- Motorized use to and from Aspen and Tilton continues to increase, thus leading to increased danger for human-vehicle collisions if hikers and bikers are forced to travel on the road.

#9 - Cement Creek Trail - Lower Cement Trail to Caves

- I support this trail as proposed.

#11 - Dr. Park Reroute

- I strongly urge the USFS to reconsider the opportunity to remedy this poorly-aligned trail with known drainage issues that was not designed for the high traffic and extensive use that it currently experiences.
- The current trail is unsustainable and through a low, wet, forested area. The trail should be rerouted to a higher point, and I support exploring other trail alignment options that are amendable to various forest users.
- I support building long-lasting, sustainable trails that can stand up to traffic rather than keeping a trail that requires extensive maintenance and continuous band-aids.

Day Use Areas and Trailhead Parking Expansions and Improvement Additions

I support the Day Use Areas and Trailhead improvements. Lasting infrastructure improvements will help manage and maintain forest resources for the future.