

April 24, 2023



To Whom it May Concern:

The Colorado Trail Foundation (CTF) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the White River National Forest Swan Mountain Project Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), Project #60771. The CTF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, with a mission to help build and maintain The Colorado Trail (CT) between Denver and Durango.

The CTF has reviewed the Swan Mountain Project Draft EA and supports the Proposed Action as it impacts the CT because it will improve the aesthetics and safety of the trail corridor and will improve the sustainability of the trail. We also have the following additional comments:

1. The EA references the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) when discussing the vegetative management actions adjacent to the CDNST, without noting that the trail is also the CT. In contrast, when discussing the sustainable trails action, the Colorado Trail #1776 is proposed for realignment, without mentioning that the trail is also designated as the CDNST. Noting the co-designation of the trails in all discussions would provide better clarity.
2. The CTF requests a field review with Forest Service staff on the realignment proposed for the Colorado Trail #1776 prior to finalizing the reroute. In addition, the CTF would like to discuss the feasibility of using CTF volunteers to assist in constructing the reroute.
3. The CTF requests that we be kept informed of any potential short- or long-term trail closures necessary during the vegetative treatment process adjacent to the trail so the CTF can notify CT trail users.

Please contact the CTF if you have any questions regarding these comments. Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,



Brent Adams
Operations Committee Chair
Member, CTF Board of Directors

