



April 21, 2023

Adam Bianchi, District Ranger
White River National Forest
Dillon Ranger District
PO Box 620
Silverthorne, CO 80498

Dear Mr. Bianchi:

The Town of Breckenridge (Town) supports the USFS Swan Mountain Project. As proposed, the project includes fuels reduction, wildlife habitat improvement, stream improvement, transportation improvement, and trail enhancements in the area of Swan Mountain north of Tiger Road.

The Town owns and manages over 5,000 acres of land throughout the Upper Blue River watershed, many parcels of which are jointly owned with Summit County. Our parcels adjoin many National Forest lands and we have always strived to work in tandem with the US Forest Service to address forest health and land management issues throughout the Upper Blue River watershed over the past decade. Additionally, we strive for seamless management of our adjoining trail networks.

Upon close review of the Swan Mountain Project and the Draft EA, our primary comments include:

1. The Town supports the fuels management and wildlife habitat vegetation treatments on approximately 1,700 acres. We recommend minimizing mastication and chipping due to the long decomposition rates in our area. Additionally, we encourage shared use of roads in the operations area for non-motorized recreational users, where safe and feasible.
2. The Town supports the work to realign and stabilize trails in the project area. We encourage comprehensive design input as the trails are realigned to ensure positive trail experiences for multiple user groups.
3. The Town requests clear and explicit communications about the project and its many components, including potentially placing long-term informational signs at the Tiger Dredge trailhead so that the public is aware of the project.
4. The Town requests that the USFS offer additional communication and outreach as the project implementation nears.

Please let us know if you have questions regarding our above comments. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,

Rick Holman
Town Manager