



Central Idaho Trail Riders Alliance



Attn: East Fork South Fork Restoration and Access Management Plan
500 North Mission Street
McCall, ID 83638

June 5, 2024

Mr. Kevin Knesek,

Please see the below comments regarding the East Fork South Fork Restoration and Access Management Plan submitted on behalf of Central Idaho Trail Riders Alliance or CITRA. CITRA is a non-profit organization based out of McCall, Idaho created for the purpose of maintaining and preserving single track motorized use in the nearby areas. Our club membership represents over 100 motorized single-track users in our area.

Alternative D is very much the preferred alternative for CITRA because this adds an additional 6.88 miles of single-track trails in the project area.

- 069 – Parks Peak – 4.96 miles
- 074 – Parks Peak Cut-off 1.91 miles

However, we are disappointed that you did not include the 5.5-mile non-motorized section of 070 Rainbow Ridge Trail. Changing the designation of this trail would allow a recreational opportunity for a loop trail system rather than an out and back. Loop trail systems are very much preferred for recreationalists.

The non-motorized area of Parks/Sheep/Rainbow trails are no longer utilized properly because of the loss of motorized status, the trails in the area are no longer maintained adequately. Single track trails improve access conditions because the users self-maintain the trails. This does not add to the financial burden of the Forest Service to maintain these trails.

As stated in the Need for Travel Planning section of the document (1.3.1), utilization of the National Forest System lands is a primary component of the administration of travel planning. When secondary back county trails such as these (not accessible by road, only by another trail) are changed from motorized to non-motorized, the ability to maintain the trail for non-motorized use becomes extremely difficult. Therefore, the trails are not usually maintained on a regular basis and the area can no longer be utilized. We urge you to reconsider the designation of:

- Non-motorized section 070 Rainbow Ridge – 5.5 miles

Also, in this area that we would like to see converted back to motorized use is:

- Non-motorized section 071 Sheep Creek – 6.8 miles
- Non-motorized section 072 Sheep Creek – 4.3 miles
- Non-motorized section 073 Williams Peak – 5.8 miles

The conversion of these trails back to motorized use will allow recreationalists to properly access and utilize areas of the National Forest that have not been properly maintained since the designation change to non-motorized.

Annually CITRA clears and maintains over 200 miles of single-track motorized trails on the Payette and Boise National Forests. This is accomplished through a volunteer service agreement in conjunction with Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. We commit to continuing this public service in the future and maintain the trails we are allowed to ride.

Our relationship with the Recreation Program Manager for the Krassel Ranger district, Josh Simpson has been pivotal in allowing resources to be spread throughout the forest to make the greatest possible benefit to all the users. When CITRA clears and maintains the motorized trails, for free, the Forest Service can direct paid maintenance efforts to the non-motorized areas and other projects. This is a direct benefit to **ALL** the users on the Forest. By changing the designation back to motorized, this will only further the net impact of maintenance of trails.

Respectfully,



Johanna Defoort

CITRA President

