



Pacific Crest Trail Association

June 17, 2024

Danelle D. Harrison
Forest Supervisor
702 S. Tippecanoe Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92408

This letter via electronic submission page
RE: Pacific Crest Trail Association Comments-BDF/BLM WSR CRMP

Dear Supervisor Harrison:

We are submitting this letter in response to the Whitewater and Deep Creek Environmental Assessments and Comprehensive River Management Plans on behalf of the 14,700 member Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA). PCTA is the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management's primary private partner in the management and maintenance of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT). PCTA is part of a long-standing partnership with the USDA Forest Service, California State Parks, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management that is formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding (15-MU-11132424-003). The foundation for this private-public partnership in the operation of National Scenic Trails (NSTs) dates to the 1968 National Trails System Act. Section 11 of the Act, titled "Volunteer Trails Assistance" states in Sec. 11(a), "... the head of any Federal agency administering Federal lands, are authorized to encourage volunteers and volunteer organizations to plan, develop, maintain, and manage, where appropriate, trails throughout the Nation." As you are aware, PCTA and the San Bernardino National Forest have a strong partnership with the management and maintenance of the PCT.

We are elated to see so much thought, care, and attention given to the PCT and how to best manage the overlapping designations of these incredible resources. This is exemplified by the inclusion of the passage "the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail overlaps with the WSR corridor. Congressionally designated under the National Trails System Act, the PCT is managed by a comprehensive plan which guides the administration of the trail. Thus, any actions stated in this CRMP that overlap with or affect the PCT would be closely coordinated with the PCT Administrator and other affiliated stakeholders such as the Pacific Crest Trail Association in order to ensure consistency with PCT management direction." This provides the foundation for both cooperative and adaptive management in a way that will meet the needs, direction, and legislation for multiple designations while simultaneously providing for public benefit and protecting the resources.

We appreciate how our comments from the draft EA and CRMP were incorporated into the final. The incorporation of our comments into these final EA's and CRMP's have adequately resolved our concerns.

We would like to stress the importance of continued collaboration and coordination to meet the direction for all designated areas within the CRMP's boundary. Often, we can bring additional resources to the table and working together will prove critical as the CRMP's management actions are implemented.

Thank you and as always, PCTA wishes to offer our assistance as this moves forward.

Thank you,

Anitra I. Kass
Southern California Regional Representative
Pacific Crest Trail Association

CC: Justin Kooyman, PCTA, Director of Trail Operations
Lindsey Steinwachs, U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Crest Trail Program Administrator

