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Comments: The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance - Methow Chapter has spent the last decade advocating for multi-use trails at Chickadee/Sun Mountain. The Chapter created, developed and is currently constructing trails as part of the Chickadee Multi-Use Trail Project. This project comprises 42 miles of USFS system trails and includes 22 miles of new singletrack. Since 2017 Evergreen has invested over \$200,000 in the Chickadee/Sun Mountain project and has produced over 2,000 volunteer hours. With project funding already secured, the Methow Chapter is poised to complete this project by the fall of 2021.

The Methow Chapter values and supports the goals of the Twisp River Restoration Project (TRRP) and advocates for maintaining forest health and reducing the danger that forest fires pose to the communities of the Methow Valley. The Methow Chapter also recognizes that the Methow Valley Ranger District (MVRD) has done a tremendous job advocating for and supporting recreation in the Methow Valley.

The following are requests of the MVRD when implementing restoration treatments that affect any Chickadee trails, such as controlled burns, vegetation management and thinning etc., during the TRRP.

Care will be taken to avoid damaging existing trail infrastructure when conducting prescribed burns, vegetation management and thinning. A concerted effort should be taken to avoid damaging any new trail constructed as part of the Chickadee project.

When damage to existing trails is inevitable due to the objectives of the TRRP, professional trail builders from Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance will be contracted to rehab and restore the trails in their existing location and condition. If trails cannot be reconstructed in existing locations, the MVRD will provide resources for rerouting affected trails so their connectivity and relevance will be maintained. Thinning contractors should not be used for this purpose as they do not have the expertise in trail construction.

The MVRD will give advance notification regarding where and when restoration treatments will take place and try to avoid impacting high user areas during peak seasons. For any disruption to winter or summer recreation, Evergreen-Methow Chapter, Methow Trails and Sun Mountain Lodge will be given 30 days notice in order to notify and educate the public.

Request that MVRD works with Evergreen-Methow Chapter directly to strategize and develop solutions for trail disruptions and alternative routes. Through careful planning and communication we can avoid full closure and ensure there are adequate routes and trails available throughout TRRP.

For any thinning operations, we request all trucks and equipment enter and exit via the Twisp River and NOT Chickadee/Sun Mountain to reduce user conflicts with logging/operations vehicles.

We request that the Chickadee Trailhead remain open and undisturbed throughout TRRP.

The following are recommendations and formal requests that would enhance the current trail system that could be approved during the NEPA process of the TRRP. The first two items have already been formally recognized and discussed between MVRD and Evergreen - Methow Chapter representatives. The third item is a recommendation by MVRD staff both as an alternative for equestrians and an access point for medical or other emergencies.

Extension of the one way climbing trail "Climb-It Change" to intersect with Wild Turkey and Pete's Dragon. This would mitigate user conflict on the upper section of Pete's Dragon which is currently a bi-directional trail.

Development of warm-up loops at the base of the Chickadee Trail Head. This will encourage mountain bikers, especially children, to use the warm up loops and prevent riding the Chickadee Trailhead parking area.

The approval of a 0.25 mile trail that would be established at the end of NF-44100, that would connect to the recently built Thompson Ridge Trail. This would enable users to access this well utilized trail from NF-44100.

Thank you for your consideration.

Josh Gewirtz- President Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance- Methow Chapter