Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/20/2021 11:00:00 AM
First name: Jack
Last name: Todd
Organization: Bicycle Colorado
Title: Director of Communications and Policy
Comments: April 20, 2021Attn: Noel Ludwig, USDA Clear Creek Ranger District RE: Loveland Ski Area Parking and Terrain Improvement Project #58009Dear Mr. Ludwig, On behalf of Bicycle Colorado and the 2.3 million people who ride a bike in Colorado each year, I am writing to comment on the Loveland Ski Area Parking and Terrain Improvement Project, #58009, that you are overseeing. Among the impacts of the parking lot construction within this project is the intermittent closure of an important connection for bicyclists from the Bakerville-Loveland Trail (BLT) to Loveland Pass, a popular route among recreational bicyclists. While we are encouraged to see plans in place to open up this section of the trail during major recreational bike events including the Triple Bypass bike ride, we are disappointed that there is no consistent detour for bicyclists and other trail users included the project. After speaking to you on the phone, it is our understanding that environmental impact concerns including tree clearing and wetland impacts took precedence over creating additional space for a detour. We applaud your decision to mitigate the environmental impacts of this project, but encourage you to consider phasing the parking lot construction to create a safe route for bicyclists and people walking for the entirety of the construction process. One route to consider in this regard would be to keep the BLT open until all construction activities that do not impact the BLT are complete, after which bicyclists may travel through the newly constructed parking lot while work impacting the BLT is underway. At a minimum, the USDA and construction crews involved in this project should:[bull] Ensure that bicyclists have a clear right of way on the BLT any time construction is not underway, including nights and weekends[bull] Work to ensure that bicyclist and pedestrian detours are put in place in any future projects so that people using Colorado's trail system for recreation are not unduly impacted by construction projects.Thank you for your time and consideration.