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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Land Stewardship

These comments pertain to soil disturbances that occur during trail construction, the associated introduction of invasive/exotic plants and the resulting reduction of native pollinators species.

To preserve the diversity of native plant and maintain pollinator populations, future trail projects on the GMUG by TMC should contain a detailed multi-year re-vegetation plan.

Many of TMC trail projects take place in remote environments. Left untended, soil disturbances in these areas lead to invasive plant growth, the loss of native plants and pollinator decline into adjacent backcountry areas.

Wildflowers are an important part of the local tourist economy. Left untended, soil disturbances from trail construction, also results in the loss native wildflowers on the GMUG's trails. Trails that are tangle mess of thistles or a monoculture of a single plant species do not offer the same user experience to locals and visitors alike.

NOTE Attached Photos:

#1 The attached photo depict the growth of giant Musk Thistle along the Deep Creek trail two years after TMC's trail improvement project.

#2 The backhoe photo shows the extent of soil disturbance that occurred during TMC's Judd Wiebe trail project in the fall of 2024. The Judd Wiebe trail will require re-vegetation with native seeds to maintain its native plants and pollinators.

Re-Vegetation Plan:

Due to the short growing season above 8,000-feet, the re-vegetation plan should require native seeds and be a minimum of 3 years. Unfortunately, throwing seed on the ground and calling it "good" does not get the job done. Revegetation above 8,000-feet in the age of climate change is akin to high altitude gardening. Invasive/exotic weeds grow more quickly than native plants. As such, it takes native plants longer to establish their root systems. After sowing seed, the following two years are spent reseeding and hand thinning the invasive/exotic plants to promote the root growth of the natives. Thank you for your consideration.

Wild Mercy,

John M. Humphries