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First name: Derrick

Last name: Nehrenberg

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My family and I moved to Crested Butte in 2013. The growth in outdoor recreation tourism I have witnessed in a short amount of time is astounding. Road traffic in the backcountry has exploded. While we are blessed with backcountry trails, there are few trails from the town that connect to the backcountry trails. Consequently, nonmotorized and motorized users are often commingled together in high-traffic areas on all roads in-and-out of Crested Butte. As a mountain biker, it sometimes feels downright unsafe and I know it can't be fun for people in vehicles trying to get somewhere quicker than me. The Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association (CBMBA) Master Plan contains "Riders of the Road" projects aimed at separating nonmotorized users from motorized users on our increasingly congested roads and improving people's experiences on trails around Crested Butte.

In response to the astonishing growth of outdoor recreation in general and mountain biking in particular around Crested Butte, the CBMBA has hired an Executive Director, added conservation to it's mission, and created the Crested Butte Conservation Corp (CBCC) a professional trail crew that takes care of all kinds of trails, even wilderness trails.

The growth of outdoor recreation is a double-edged sword, more crowds mean more management. However, if managed in a sustainable way, more outdoor recreation means better human health, economic, and even conservation outcomes. As a mountain biker, I see a direct connection between users using trails, caring about them, and conservation of the landscape. In short, the more people we have caring for trails, the more people will care about conservation of the landscape. The upper Gunnison Valley around Crested Butte is surrounded by national forest and wilderness and is one of the most beautiful landscapes in the USA. The success of the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative is a good example of the extent to which all parties agree that conservation of our landscape is of primary concern. The CBMBA feels the same and it is why it has added conservation to its mission and worked very hard to form the CBCC. Mixing nonmotorized traffic with motorized traffic in every drainage detracts from users' enjoyment of the landscape. Instead of enjoying the landscape nonmotorized and motorized travelers have to remain increasingly vigilant for each other.

The Forest Service's Assessment that "Mountain Biking, born in Crested Butte, is slowly losing ground in popularity to dirt bike use" is alarming to me because it indicates that the Forest Service is out of touch with what is going on over here. Mountain biking is growing in popularity and mountain bikers are the ones most actively involved in maintaining all kinds of trails and conserving what we have.

The #1 need we have over here is nonmotorized trails from Crested Butte that connect to the backcountry to separate nonmotorized trail users from motorized trail users.