

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/8/2017 6:36:05 PM

First name: Max

Last name: Cooper

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The GMUG revision plan certainly touches on the recreation issues facing the Telluride region and San Miguel Bike Alliance, namely our limited trail inventory. Not having experience with this forest plan process I'm not precisely sure what the USFS needs. For example there seem to be plenty of comments regarding the desire for more trails and separating user's and so on. Is there more science that USFS will use for this process? For example, the lynx habitat in our region has been a reason for limiting nordic ski trails and supposedly, monitoring is showing less negative impacts than suspected. Hopefully this plan is incorporating all the latest science in conjunction with the comments. Which could be related to this process moving faster than anticipated.

Another concern is the idea that mitigating trail conflict can be accomplished through consistent messaging and signage. It does sound nice, but in my experience there are enough users struggling with elevation, trail technicality, and a bike that they may not know how to ride, that signage has a negligible impact. Separating users seems like the best way forward with our increasing demand and doing so requires a lot of work, especially when the terrain doesn't lend itself to stacked loops. Consistent messaging and signage will continue to be required but it's effectiveness is debatable.

Moving forward it seems that USFS is understandably more and more reliant on partnerships to accomplish its goals. It can be a challenge for a partner to maintain momentum when the process can take a decade to get a trail on the ground for example. Hopefully this plan can address the need and improve that time frame in order to keep partners engaged so we can get more done to improve our forests.

San Miguel Bike Alliance is well aware that we occupy a small portion of the GMUG and that the practical matters of managing the ski area permits and so forth take up the majority of USFS time. And of course bikers always want more more more. Nonetheless we are seeing less and less snow and part of the revised forest plan needs to be progressive action for enhancing opportunities in the GMUG going forward.