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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Basalt Mountain Salvage and Rehabilitation Project. I am a resident of Missouri Heights and an avid hiker, trail runner, skier and mountain biker. Basalt Mountain is very important to me and is a favorite place to recreate. Therefore, I am in support of the project and am eager to see the mountain I love returned to a healthy state. Comments I have on the project relate to the impacts on recreation as follows:
I am concerned about the impacts of the truck traffic for logging operations on our ability to recreate. I hope the project will allow for closures of small areas at a time so that recreation can continue, within reason, throughout the project. I also hope that there will be work stoppages on the weekends so that us weekend warriors can access the trails (Mill Creek, Ditch and Cattle Creek) and also on weekday nights.
I noted that the plan is to use the trail I know as the Basalt Mountain Trail 524.1A as a temporary road and then return it to its original trail width. The original trail is a rocky old road that has narrowed to single track in some places and is used to access the Cattle Creek trail. Truthfully, access to the Cattle Creek trail is about the only good thing about it. Not only is the trail no fun to ride but it is also hazardous with hidden stop rocks in inopportune places. I have witnessed a pretty nasty injury as a result. Rather than obliterating and then rehabbing a the 524.1A trail I was wondering if there might be some opportunity to improve the recreation experience on the top of Basalt Mountain by rerouting this trail? Mike Pritchard of the RFMBA shared with me the idea that it could be rerouted on to the Mill Creek Rim. This would provide for great views from the edge of Basalt Mountain and also provide the ability to build a much more user friendly trail, still technical in nature as the terrain dictates, but made with the user in mind (good view lines, sustainable surface, rocks in the right places, etc.). I would be highly supportive of rerouting this trail and would participate in the construction of it if offered the opportunity through local non-profits.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment and for the resources you are applying to the rehabilitation of Basalt Mountain.