

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/14/2019 3:01:45 PM

First name: Robert

Last name: Meyer

Organization: Mancos Trails Group

Title: Board Chair

Comments:

7/2/19

To Whom It May Concern,

The Mancos Trails Group (MTG) fully supports the Proposed Action - Expansion/Modification of the Current Trail System for the Chicken Creek Trails Project Draft Environmental Assessment.

Since the implementation of the 2008 Travel Management Plan, the area surrounding the Chicken Creek Nordic trail system has experienced an increase in non-motorized use. The network of social trails created by dog walkers, trail runners, day hikers, equestrians, and cyclists grows every summer.

The Proposed Action does a good job of striking a balance between addressing the need for expanding the mileage of non-motorized trails while avoiding sensitive areas for wildlife and other concerns. We commend this approach.

Using sustainable trail building practices, the trails will be long lasting and low maintenance.

The proposed new trails lie within a multiple-use area whose uses include recreation, grazing and timber production. Therefore the Chicken Creek area provides an opportunity to educate about the multiple use mission of the Forest Service and we encourage an educational component.

The recreation economy in Mancos is steadily growing and projects like this are important to address this growth and wisely manage the increased use of public lands surrounding town.

The Chicken Creek Trails Project will provide an easily accessible, well organized system of trails a short distance from Mancos. This will encourage residents and visitors to patronize local businesses and offer opportunities for new business growth related to recreation.

Although MTG's mission is stewardship of non-motorized trails, MTG supports the 1 mile proposed new two wheel motorized trail up Deer Lick Creek as well as the redesignation of the Owen Basin Connector Trails to two wheel motorized. These two relatively short connectors utilize existing routes to allow motorized users a much improved experience by providing loops where previously none existed.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of MTG.

Robert Meyer

Chair, Mancos Trails Group.