

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/6/2019 9:36:47 PM

First name: Joshua

Last name: Cole

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly support Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance in their concerns about the Twisp River Restoration Project. While I support the goals of the project, I do not support any action that would even temporarily close, modify, or damage the existing trail network. This trail network, along with several other prominent trails in the OWNF, is likely one of the single largest recreational driver of the Methow economy in the summer. In following Evergreen's recommendations, I ask that:

Care will be taken to avoid damaging existing trail infrastructure when conducting prescribed burns, vegetation management and logging in both the Chickadee/Sun Mountain trail system and the Twisp River Trail. A concerted effort should be taken to avoid damaging any trail constructed in the last three years.

When damage to existing trails built by Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance is inevitable due to the objectives of the TRRP, professional trail builders from Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance will be hired to re-establish the trails in their existing locations. If trails cannot be reconstructed in existing locations, the FS will provide resources for the trails rerouting so trail connectivity and relevance will be maintained. The logging contractors should not be used for this purpose as they do not have the expertise in trail construction.

The Forest Service will give advance notification as to where and when certain Forest Service mitigation practices will take place and try to avoid impacting high user areas during peak seasons. For any disruption to trails, EMBA-MC and Sun Mountain Lodge will be given 30 days notice in order to notify the public.

Request that MVRD works with Evergreen directly to strategize which trails to close and when throughout the project, to avoid full closure and to make sure there are adequate routes and trails available at any given time

For any thinning or logging operation, we request trucks enter and exit via the Twisp River side of Thompson pass and NOT Chickadee/Sun Mountain to reduce user conflicts with logging/operations vehicles.

The following are recommendations that would enhance the current trail system that could be approved during the NEPA process of the TRRP.

Extension of the trail "Climb-It Change" to intersect with Wild Turkey and Pete's Dragon. This would mitigate user conflict on the upper section of Pete's Dragon which is currently a bi-directional trail.

Development of warm-up loops at the base of the Chickadee Trail Head. This will encourage mountain bikers, most importantly, children, from warming up in the parking lot area.

The approval of a 0.25 mile trail that would be established at the end of NF-44100, that would connect to the recently built Thompson Ridge Trail. This would enable users to access this well utilized trail from NF44100.