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First name: Lorna

Last name: Campbell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Salter Vegetation Management proposal covers a significant area of some of the most popular forest for recreation in the Four corners area. While I understand the need for action to improve the long-term health of the forest, this proposal clearly needs to be actioned in a way that to minimises the potential negative impact on users and local communities (recognising there will also be some positive economic benefits from harvesting the resource).

I am a local hiker, trail runner, mountain biker and cross country skier, and enjoy all of these activities in the Dolores National Forest, in particular the trails in the Boggy draw system. As you state in the EA Page 46 "Over the past five years more than \$300,000 of trail infrastructure projects have been completed on the Boggy non-motorized and motorized trail system". This is a significant investment, not only of money, but also time from trail volunteers (many from SWCCA) who have literally put blood, sweat and tears into the construction of these trails for the enjoyment of many. This system is a big draw to the area for athletes from Durango, Cortez, Utah, New Mexico and further afield. While the forest may need some "help" to get back to a more natural state as defined by the Forest service, it is already picturesque, and a beautiful respite in the trees at any time of year. This is what attracts many users to the area today. Hopefully the proposal can be conducted in a way to still protect that feeling of escape to the natural environment, even if it is in smaller areas for the better part of a decade.

I am pleased by some of the considerations already made to minimise the effect on recreation, for example proposed signage at the Boggy Draw trail head identifying impact areas and limiting wheeled equipment within 15 feet of trails. However there are still some areas for further consideration that could achieve the project goals but also ensure recreation continues, is safe, and is not impacted:

- Level 1 roads are currently used as part of the trail system and are likely to see significant wear over the project. Consider creating trails parallel to the 1.94 miles of Level 1 roads in the Boggy draw area so that trail users would not be on the roads being used by logging trucks
- ensure that no (or minimal) temporary roads are created within the trail system to preserve its integrity
- utilize rerouting of the trails onto available roads or alternate trails rather than closing altogether during work periods
- speed limits and signage should be posted and enforced for logging trucks to ensure they are aware of recreational users (especially heavy on weekends)
- consider a trail alternative to the main road 31 from Dolores to give recreational users a safe way to access the trails and minimize interaction with logging trucks
- conduct operations in no more than one area at a time (and get each area done as quickly as possible!) to minimize scenery disruption and noise levels
- even though Winter is a lower use season, the recent fat bike grooming has been fantastic and a big draw for users. Please ensure that consideration is given for Winter trail routes as well (which differ some from the established trail system)

These types of modifications could ensure that trail use is still safe and enjoyable so that people continue to come and use the forest during the project execution. Ten years is an awfully long time - success would mean the coexistence of both.

One additional comment relates to the transportation plan. I was quite surprised to read of the need for more than 100mi of temporary roads (many to be newly constructed) to execute this project over 33,000 acres. While the transport plan has not been finalized, I urge you to consider if the impact needs to be this high to achieve the project goals.

Lastly, it would be very helpful to understand the timeline for the project: likely start date, order and timing of the

phases, likely end date. I look forward to hearing more as planning progresses.

Sincerely,
Lorna Campbell