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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am an avid mountain biker, hiker and camper who has been visiting and enjoying the trails of Boggy Draw and the House Creek area for the past 25 years. I have seen the Boggy Draw trail system grow from one 8 mile trail in 1995 to a complex of over 50 miles of mountain biking, hiking and equestrian trails not to mention many miles of OHV trails. The expansion of these trails has turned Boggy Draw into an important recreation resource locally and regionally as well as bringing in an increasing number out of state visitors. The economic benefit to local communities and businesses from visitors coming to walk and ride around Boggy Draw has grown every year.

Regarding the proposed logging operation in this area I would like to see that communication and oversight by forest managers with logging operations is maintained to help mitigate visitation conflicts and damage to existing recreation trails. The Forest Service should closely monitor trail and road safety in logging operations. Including public communications from the Forest Service about trail closures and duration of trail closures at trailheads as well as trail signage about logging operations, trail closure, detours and truck crossings would be helpful. I am also concerned with the traffic conflicts between recreation visitors and the increased logging truck traffic and would like to see alternate road routes used by logging trucks if possible. For safety slow-speed signs and speed bumps should be considered at road approaches to trail crossings and trailheads. I would like to see temporary trail closures kept to a minimum (2 weeks) and only one trail closed at a time.

The surrounding residents, communities, bike clubs and other visitors have contributed thousands of volunteer hours and dollars to building and maintaining trails in the Boggy Draw area not to mention the extensive trail planning and work by land managers. There is no doubt the logging operation will impact these trails and the visitation to this popular recreation venue. But it is my hope that when the logging operation proceeds it is managed in such a way by the Forest Service and its contractors that the impact to the Boggy Draw trails and the many visitors to the area will be minimal.

With Regards,