

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/12/2021 3:42:28 PM

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Comments: For comment on the Salter EA vegetation plan, although a great deal of thought and care has been put into the initial plan, I believe there are a number of things that could be clarified.

Economic and community impact: Dolores and much of the surrounding area has a long history of being economically dependent on extractive industry like logging, and indeed after the closing of the town of McPhee, and the subsequent building and filling of the reservoir, the economic vitality of the town of Dolores has been severely distressed. As a business owner in the town of Dolores for 20 years, I believe there has been a long and vital effort to create a new economic engine for the community in the form of recreational opportunities including the biking/hiking and camping in the Boggy Draw area. The economic benefits of recreational visitors to our area were especially evident during this recent pandemic year, when many struggling businesses were spared by the influx of people coming to camp, hike and ride in the boggy draw area, and spending their money in the Dolores and Montezuma County businesses. There appears to be little mention of the possible economic impacts of trail closures both temporary and long term on the local businesses other than logging, as well as the impacts on the attractiveness of the vistas and intimacy of the camping experiences available in the Boggy Draw area.

Rerouting existing trails so as to minimize impact long term. Many of the existing trails within the Boggy Draw system utilize portions of level 1 roads that will be reopened to accommodate logging traffic thus destroying the integrity of the trail system for brief or extended periods of time. Existing trails should be rerouted off of level one roads and the economic cost of rerouting these trails should fall on the proceeds of the timber sales, not the volunteers that built the trails to begin with. Planning and rerouting existing trails that may overlap with level 1 roads and other operations will alleviate conflicts with trail users, and increase overall safety for both recreationists and logging workers.

Trail system Buffers: There seems to be little mention of a buffer around existing trails other than a meager "visual corridor" of 9' from center. This corresponds to about the width of an average parking place, and is too vague to be meaningful. This Visual corridor doesn't adequately address the reclamation guidelines, oversight, or accountability process for the overall plan. Of concern would be the overall impact of logging operations on the visual experience of the trail user and camper. Reclamation of areas affected by logging such as slash piles, burn piles, and reclamation of traffic and skid damage should be immediate, swift, and subject to oversight.

Learn as we go: There may be an opportunity to learn about the ways timber harvesting and reclamation operations can be conducted to be less impactful and more efficient by starting on sections furthest away from the Boggy Draw trail system area. I've noticed that past burns of gamble oak in control areas have required extensive maintenance, and that control of gamble oak in areas wherever canopy has been reduced may necessarily increase.

Singletrack trail quality, scenery and trail flow is critically important to most Boggy Draw trail users, and the economic benefit derived from a beautiful and vital trail system cannot be overstated or discounted. I would ask the FS to consider the Boggy Draw trail system as a vital part of Montezuma county's economic vitality and future, and with that consideration, make every effort to minimize and offset the impacts of any logging operations considered now and in the future. Thank you.

Mark Youngquist

Dolores Resident

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