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Organization: High Trails Outdoor Science School

Title: Director

Comments: Hello Everyone;

I do, of course, support this project 100% (as someone who might have had a hand in the design of the trail corridors).

However, I speak now for education and schooling and children and people. As a business owner of an outdoor science school that has, over the last 20 years, brought up almost 200,000 children for overnight outdoor education field school trips to the local San Bernardino National Forest. Our mission, from day one, has been to plant a seed in the hearts of Southern California children, so that they realize nature is something to both experience and treasure. Nature is something you experience first hand, something you touch, something you feel. And this happens, almost always, through TRAILS. Trails are a slim ribbon of dirt from which we can see, experience, and appreciate NATURE. Without trails, people don't get out into the forest. And they don't understand how wonderful it is.

If we fence off the forest and protect it so much that the people cannot safely experience nature, then we lose the allies and supporters and friends and constituents and children for the future. Without trails the US National Forest becomes an imposing, intimidating, untouchable tract of land that no one cares about...because no one sees it.

The slim ribbon of dirt called a trail is a compromise that does affect the natural forest ecosystem. However, in my opinion as an educator of children, this compromise is WORTH IT.

Bring on the trails. The eagles will be just fine.