

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/27/2021 9:41:08 PM

First name: Nick

Last name: Catmur

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I noticed the plan identified the Crested Butte area as a recreation hub. With this in mind, I feel that the Forest Service should consider the expansion of recreation infrastructure around Crested Butte. This should include more Camping infrastructure in certain areas, better more established trailhead parking areas, and more modern trail construction/regulations. Each of these should be heavily considered as recreation becomes more and more popular in the Crested Butte area.

Camping- The recent switch to designated camping is an amazing and necessary change that should help mitigate the negative impacts of unchecked dispersed camping. Moving forward the USFS needs to consider the ideas of developing one or more larger campgrounds in the areas around Crested Butte. The current Rendezvous Meadow area could easily accommodate a large 50-75 site camp ground that could alleviate the worry that designated camping with put a pinch on visitation. I know a lot of infrastructure is needed for campgrounds but we need to think about the future and visitation to CB will only increase. The USFS needs to choose a plan that will accommodate needs such as larger campgrounds in this plan.

Parking- With the focus again on recreation around CB trailhead improvements need to be included in any plan moving forward. Parking for trail heads around Crested Butte is currently a messy free for all that can lead to the damage of roadside vegetation, traffic congestion, and user conflict. I highly encourage the Forest Service to invest in better trailhead infrastructure around CB.

Trails- If CB is being identified as a recreation hub the upcoming forest plan must be one that allows for the expansion of Crested Buttes trail network. I highly encourage the Forest Service to adopt the Crested Butte Mountain Bike Associations(CBMBA) Riders off the Road plan, as well as leave the door open for a more modern/progressive trails management strategy. In the forest plan, it says that the development of stacked loops trail systems should be prioritized and I could not agree more. If Crested Butte is a labeled as a recreation hub the forest service should be in favor of a stacked loop style trail system somewhere near Crested butte. This system should have direction biking only trails as well as two way hiking trails. The forest service really needs to consider separating these two users as a way to improve user experience and decrease user conflict. I would recommend three areas for such a system:

1.Snodgrass Mtn - With the development of North Village pedestrian traffic on the current snodgrass trail will increase heavily causing more user conflict. An expansion of beginner to expert trails on Snodgrass would serve as an amazing amenity to Mt CB, CB, and North village. The construction of NV will already be impacting the area, snodgrass already sees heavy use, this area is also very close to town centers, requires little transportation to get to, has terrain suitable to both hiking and biking trails, and is within current cell service(this allows for beginner riders to feel more confident about riding alone).

2.Strand Hill - Strand already has a small trail network located on it. The entire hill is also surrounded on all sides by motorized use, and while that does not mean it is free of wildlife I do feel that it is already a more impacted and isolated island of recreation use. The camping area known as tent city is also located at the foot of strand hill. Tent City could be improved to be a larger campground as I mentioned earlier campgrounds will be needed. To put a large camping area and a trail network next to each other just makes sense, isolate impacts from recreation to one area.

3.Kebler Pass/Lake Irwin Y- The area of land located between the road to Lake Irwin and the town of Irwin is another potential area for a trail system. Much like Strand hill it is an island of land surrounded on all sides by heavy use. With Lake Irwin also undergoing improvements to its campground in the coming years what better amenity to add than a trail system campers can ride to from the campground.

A stacked trail system in one of these three areas should be highly considered, the areas make sense for this type of system and it would be an amazing opportunity for the Crested Butte trail network to grow in a unique isolated way that does not bisect important wildlife corridors and does not ask for more long distance backcountry trails.

Please consider these topics in your upcoming forest plan and if you truly identify Crested Butte as a recreation

hub please allow it to grow in that capacity.