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Organization:

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Comments: Hello Adam and Dillon Ranger District Team:

Thank you for showing the Forest Health Task Force group the plans for the Soda Creek improvements in the forest. You asked if we had any comments to please pass them along.

I was impressed with the depth and breadth of planning for forest treatments for trees and shrubs - to create a mosaic in that basin. Great work by the forest team.

The Nature Conservancy is trying to add ASPENS to forests in Summit County and you might ask them to add and nurture a few plots in the basin for added diversity?

I have added and nurtured about 100 Ponderosa Pines at our ranch in Northern Summit County to improve diversity (In case the pine bark beetle might return). Sarah has cones and seeds collected for Ponderosa Pines and I think it would be excellent to add that DIVERSITY to your efforts (possible that the Nature Conservancy or the Forest Health Task Force might provide the nurturing for a few plots for the first 2-3 years).

That same level of planning may have been completed for the RECREATION side of the holistic plan; but that information was not shared in the same level of depth and breadth. The information that I understood involved access to the basin from Tiger Road with a fairly lengthy hike over a 'saddle'. There continues to be very limited access to the basin from the Keystone area except little known access through a couple of neighborhoods. The road we used to access the basin was blocked, locked and indicated with a 1/2 dozen NO PARKING painted on the road. Maybe you want very limited access from Keystone as a part of your agreement for sleigh rides; but for the general public looking to recreate the tone is very much 'OFF LIMITS'.

I would like to see the District have an OPEN and WELCOME policy for the basin - especially after spending considerable funds to improve the basin. If you want the immediate area near the gate to be NO PARKING that is fine; but why not have a lot nearby that says WELCOME - PLEASE PARK HERE - LOTS OF PARKING AVAILABLE. A POSITIVE experience to start recreating instead of a NEGATIVE 'NO PARKING'.

What is the appropriate CAPACITY for public use of the Soda Creek Basin and then provide enough parking for that capacity -some parking near Keystone, some along Tiger Road, some along Swan Mountain Road. Great opportunity to connect with Summit County and Breckenridge for coordinated MASTER PLANNING for access for all key trails and basins.

For SAFETY purposes I would like to see mountain bikers on different trails than GENERAL PURPOSE TRAILS (that include all forms of recreating). Maybe that is planned?

The mountain bikers travel fast and furious while many young kids walk with parents and grandparents with less attention to the dangers of speeding bikers. Separate trails would be SAFER for everybody (In Soda Creek and everywhere).

Also, this work offers an opportunity for a trail for folks with 'special needs' and disabilities/handicapped/wheelchairs/walkers. Is that a part of the plan?

Adam and Team - thanks again for including the task force with your planning. We are excited for all the great work the team has planned.

Good luck - can't wait to see the final results a few years into the future. Go Team!!

Best regards, Jim Donlon