

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/14/2021 7:00:00 AM

First name: Rose

Last name: Winn

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I Support Recreation in Swan Mountain

Dear Ms. :

I enjoy recreating on public lands and I appreciate all that public lands has to offer me and others. I recognize the importance of the outdoors and connecting with nature. I believe there is therapeutic and health benefits to being outdoors and having those experiences. I also believe motorized recreation opportunities are an element of the public lands that agencies have not prioritized but need to. I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the Swan Mountain Project Proposal.

Colorado benefits greatly from outdoor recreation. As outdoor recreation and motorized use continues to increase I believe the Forest Service should do everything possible in order to facilitate maximum amount of opportunities for users. I do not support any closures or decommissioning of routes. I am also concerned that with the proposed reroutes, a significant amount of mileage would be eliminated. These trails are important to users and provide opportunities for local economies to benefit. The USFS should analyze whether loss in mileage is resulting in a loss of access. As recreation increases, the USFS should provide the maximum amount of mileage in order to reduce impact so that all users are not concentrated into small areas. While I live in California, my sister and other extended family live in Denver, CO, and regularly enjoy recreating in the Swan Mountain region. Closure of this region will negatively impact my family in an immediate and significant way. I will also be

personally impacted by closures in this region as we would be unable to access the areas we have typically enjoyed when I visit my family.

I support the proposed vegetation projects. The forest needs to be maintained in order to stay healthy and viable. If vegetation projects do not move forward this poses the greatest risk for wildfire. Wildfire is the greatest risk to all forest users, and it is a significant risk to wildlife and habitat. Please manage our forests so that we do not see the catastrophic results from wildfire. The Forest Service should be using non-fire techniques as often as possible such as mechanical thinning in order to prevent these events. I share support for proposed vegetation projects from the standpoint of personal experience, having witnessed the tragic results of catastrophic wildfire within USFS managed land near my home in California. Last year, the Creek Fire incinerated over 380,000 acres of forest lands in and around Shaver Lake. The Creek Fire happened as a result of decades of negligence in vegetation management. Forest lands that could have been managed with a healthy load of trees

per acre, became standing tinderboxes due to extreme density of trees and underbrush. The mountains in my backyard are now reduced to blackened ash. The wildlife that once thrived here were decimated. The beauty of our lakes, trails, and vistas were destroyed. The Creek Fire was 100% preventable through effective conservation in the form of vegetation management. I would hate to see the exquisite forest lands of Colorado needlessly destroyed in the same manner. Vegetation management ensures prevention of catastrophic wildfire.

I believe as the USFS works to manage the land, rather than implementing closures, this best fulfills Biden's, "Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government." Management policies focused on "minimizing" the environmental impacts of motorized recreation have resulted in a dramatic decrease in motorized recreation opportunities on public lands over the last 20 years which has disproportionately impacted people with disabilities. It is time the Forest Service works to remove policies that discriminate against underserved populations - including those with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Rose Winn