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Comments: I'm going to be blunt. I personally feel like the will of the people is being ignored. While mineral extractors, timber harvesters and various ski areas rush their plans through the NEPA approval process, entities such as the Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association are asked to jump through myriad hoops, navigate unclear approval pathways, and then see hard work flushed down the drain by the will of the vocal minority.

From what I understand, CBMBA did things the right way, working with a wide variety of stakeholders to build consensus only to see these efforts whittled away. Why is this? Why is there not a clear and transparent process that incorporates multiple user interests over special use biases? Why is the entire Snodgrass mountain being held hostage by a lone ranching outfit? Why has a subjective review in the need and purpose analysis superseded public comment? Why are we not following the mandate of providing the greatest good to the greatest number of people for the longest time?

The mountain bike community is continually told that trail experiences, trail connectivity, and sustainable trails produce positive impact on public lands. Yet in the case of the NVTP the powers that be seemed to care less about this and more about quieting those loud minority voices who would apparently prefer they were the lone permitted users of our public lands.

The reasoning for which trail proposals were accepted and which were removed from consideration appeared illogical and subjective-and does not reflect the will people. To have proposed-and thoroughly vetted-trails removed from the NEPA scoping process before the public was even given the chance to comment is simply bad governance.

Now some specific trails comments:

Upper Cement Trail to Crystal Peak Trail: CBMBA worked tirelessly with CPW and other wildlife advocates to relocate the proposed trail from the west to the east side of Cement Creek Road to decrease fragmentation of wildlife and mitigate wetlands impacts, and the initial proposal was supported by the Gunnison County STOR Committee. For those reasons, I urge the USFS to reinstate this proposed trail into the NVTP.

This area is one of the most visually spectacular riding zones in the entire valley, but it is becoming increasingly overrun by gas powered vehicles of all sorts, creating an unsafe situation for non-motorized users. By creating this trail extension there would be a safer travel corridor that would get riders off the road, while also adding much needed beginner-friendly trail and creating a longer loop option for advanced riders.

Upper Upper to Brush Creek Trailhead: I do not support the revised NVTP alignment and believe the original CBMBA plan is a better solution, understanding that a seasonal closure in late summer/fall will be needed to appease ranching and grazing needs. As it stands, the NVTP proposed trail is too close to the road and will go up and down at unsustainable grades while traversing biologically sensitive terrain.

Strand Bonus to 409: Simply put, this trail will improve non-motorized, trail connectivity and enhance trail user experience in the area without causing meaningful disturbance to other stakeholders. It should be reinstated.

Deer Creek to Tent City: I strongly believe that the clearly valuable northern portion of this proposed trail should also be added back into the plan for consideration and the public should be given the opportunity to comment.