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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the North Valley Trails Plan (NVTP). My name is Nick Catmur, I have been a resident of Crested Butte since 1988. Crested Butte has grown a lot in that time and so has its popularity with outdoor recreationists. It is vital that the forest service takes the necessary steps to improve recreation amenities and infrastructure for the future. Several of the comments I have read regarding this plan seem to suggest not making improvements to trailheads or trails as it will deter people from coming. I find this notion to be very narrow-minded and short sighted. People are going to come regardless and if you don't give them a place to recreate, park, or camp they will take it upon themselves to make their own. This can lead to far more devastating impacts on the forest than a well thought out sustainable plan such as the one presented by the Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association in the form of the riders off the road plan now moving forward under the NVTP name.

I fully support the plan moving forward as proposed with the following exceptions:

Upper Upper to Brush Creek trail- The plan should not move forward with the proposed IDT alignment. This alignment will lend to poor trail flow, and by being so close to the road it will still subject users to dust from the road. As a result, it will be a poor user experience, be underutilized, and will not get users off the road, therefore defeating the purpose of even building it. There is proof in the plan that the Forest Service recognizes this fact, in regard to changing the alignment of the Deer Creek to Tent City trail they state; "moving the trail to run parallel(to the road) for the whole length(could be an option); however, at that point would not be an improvement to user experience over the road itself." This trail should only be implemented if CBMBA's original alignment is used and with an enforced seasonal closure during grazing season.

Deer Creek to Tent City- The portion of this trail "removed from consideration" by the IDT should be put back into the plan. CBMBA worked with both the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory and Wildlife experts to come to an appropriate alignment for this trail. This portion was also approved by the STOR committee which shows it had support from all vested parties. The removal of this portion of trails seems to me that it was done on behalf of a single interest, ranching and cattle grazing. By adding a trail here you not only create an amazing singletrack experience from Brush Creek Rd to Gothic Rd, but it would also be an opportunity to build a fun flowy beginner level trail that would be accessible early in the season. More beginner trails are one of the bigger asks from a large portion of the mountain bike community in Crested Butte. This is an opportunity to fill that need. If the goal is to be less impactful on the environment and the cattle, why not build the trail and close FS road 582? The Forest Service says it themselves in the plan, that it is a "low use dead end road." So why not eliminate the more impactful motorized use, decommission the road, and build sustainable single track?

Upper Cement Creek to Crystal- This trail needs to be reincluded in the plan moving forward. The notion that it won't be used is not true. Cement Creek is becoming more and more popular as a recreation area. Even the far reaches of the road are getting busy with motorcycles, ATVs, side by sides, and Jeeps. This is the perfect time to implement some forward thinking and take the opportunity to get bikers off the road. The road is only going to get busier, and as a result, riders will seek this trail out and they will use it. Not just bikers on longer rides but also beginners. The current Upper Cement Creek trail is a beautiful beginner level trail that sees frequent use by people riding it as an out and back. Therefore extending this trail will not only give advanced riders an amazing 100% single track experience but it will also expand what is already a well-used beginner route.

Doctor Park Reroute - This seems like an obvious opportunity to build a far more appropriate trail in this area. Doctor Park is far and away one of the most ridden trails in the valley and the current alignment of the first 1.2 miles through the woods is a disgraceful mess. This trail is only going to get worse, the high use is leading to

more exposed roots, deeper ruts and potholes where water often pools, and significant widening well beyond single track. In my five years on the Crested Butte Conservation Corps, I have done plenty of maintenance on this portion of the trail and I can attest to plenty of erosion and sediment displacement. Doing constant maintenance on this section is not the solution, and maybe CBMBAs alignment on the ridge isn't either. However, I would very much like to see the Forest Service recognize that the current trail is not sustainable and work to find a reroute alignment that works for the permittee and wildlife. I am un partial to closing or leaving the Spur trial open, but I will reiterate that if the goal is less impact on the environment then surely building one new sustainable route and closing two old routes will have less impact on wildlife and lead to fewer erosion issues.

Lastly, I would like to say that while this trail plan will add some much-needed connections and reroute some poorly aligned and unsustainable trails there is very little in it to get excited about from a biking perspective. As I stated before, Crested Butte is an ever-growing area in regards to recreation, people are not going to stop coming here, and we need to be more forward-thinking in the future of our trails. CBMBA and other organizations need to be allowed to propose progressive purpose-built directional mountain bike trails that separate users and decrease user conflict, without the fear that special interests will shut down the idea of such trails long before the public process. The Snodgrass public trail is a perfect example of this. That trail should be getting vetted as part of this plan. It's the people's land and we all deserve a say. Many other communities have directional trails specific to biking and hiking in their forests and we are falling behind this curve. It is time to stop playing catch up and consider taking actions that will stand up to the future. The solution of doing nothing is not a solution.