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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have lived in the Gunnison Valley for 35 years and I am a hiker, a mountain biker and a horse trail rider. I live in the Gunnison Valley for its quality of life and outdoor opportunities. I have worked for locally owned businesses and have had one of my own. I am constantly asking folks visiting why they come here and where they have wondered. We have been found and they will continue to go home and share their experiences in the Gunnison Valley and encourage their friends to come too whether we want them to or not.

I am also the CBMBA Secretary and have been on the board in some capacity off and on since the mid 90's. I have worked alongside many District Rangers over the years and have heard a variety of different opinions, but CBMBA has ALWAYS maintained an open and productive relationship with our forest and of that I am very proud.

The current North Valley Trail Project has been trimmed down over the years to include the 8 specific projects I will briefly comment on.

#### #1 - Lake Irwin Road Parallel Trail

I am with CBMBA who advocates for building the trail parallel to the road, where existing wetland concerns can be addressed and mitigated. I also advocate for decommissioning the portion of the existing Wagon Trail which will decrease wildlife habitat fragmentation, support a more intact natural resource area, and eliminate a system route that requires more effort to maintain than it provides actual use or travel. I have rarely seen this section of the Wagon Trail used and have never recommended it to someone whose ability I don't know.

#### #2 - Upper Upper to the Brush Creek Trailhead

I believe CBMBA's proposed trail, 250' from the road up the hillside, on more consistent terrain is better suited for all users. The CBMBA proposed trail is also placed above the RMBL research area, and away from sight and reach of the research. CBMBA's proposed trail and the improved parking and access will help discourage improper use and keep users on the designated trail.

We have seen seasonal closure work on other trails in the system so having this applied to this trail would be a great compromise.

#### #3 - Strand Bonus to 409

I am in full support of this trail as proposed as this trail system is one of the most popular and one of the "easiest" in the system. This trail satisfies the "purpose and need" by providing improved non-motorized network connectivity and enhanced user experiences. This trail will provide a seamless non-motorized trail connection that is highly valued by trail users. We strongly encourage this proposed trail to remain in the project and are grateful to have it included for additional public input.

#### #4 - Budd Connection - Ambush to Tent City

I am in full support of this trail as proposed. This trail is a strong example of a "trail hub connection", which is ideal for trail connectivity and decreasing forest impacts by providing parking, bathroom facilities, and access to

multiple recreation opportunities. CBMBA is very lucky to have the Budd Family as a partner in trails.

#### #5 - Deer Creek to Tent City

I am in support of the trail that is proposed in this plan, although disappointed that most of the proposed trail (the entire section north of FS 738.2A) was removed before the public was given the opportunity to comment. The lower section that connects Tent City to NFSR 738.2a will be a useful network connector to a popular camping area and agree with the purpose and need of this trail. I am disappointed in the exclusion of the upper/northern portion due to the fact that CBMBA worked many hours with wildlife proponents to refine a trail alignment that had the least impact on natural resources and wildlife than our alignment in previous versions of CBMBA's Riders Off the Road plan. The trail that CBMBA had proposed, but was removed from consideration, was also in collaboration with the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory and wildlife proponents, with the goal of creating fewer impacts on natural resources while still improving singletrack trail continuity.

#### #6 - Teocalli Extension

I am in full support of this trail as proposed. I hope that CBMBA's expertise could benefit the Teocalli Extension alignment to further refined the trail alignment and work alongside the Ranger District upon approval of this proposal.

#### #7 - Reno Divide Road Parallel Trail

I am in full support of this trail as proposed and would like to see CBMBA's professional trail crew continue to be involved in setting the final alignment on the ground. The proposed trail will greatly reduce user conflicts and provide better user experiences.

#### #8 - Cement Creek Trail - Upper Cement Creek Trail to Crystal

I am not in support of the IDT finding that this trail be "removed from consideration".

#### #9 - Cement Creek Trail - Lower Cement Creek Trail to Caves

I am in full support of this trail as proposed. As CBMBA believes I hope that the IDT can utilize this same reasoning and objective approach for the Upper portion of the Cement Creek Trail as discussed in the previous comment for the portion from Upper Cement to Crystal.

#### #10 - Bear Creek Reroute

I am in full support of this trail as proposed.

#### #11 - Dr. Park Reroute

This re-route is absolutely needed for many reasons. Dr Park is one of the trails that most visitors will put on their MUST DO list. Many people that drive over Cottonwood Pass to get home will make this ride a part of their exit plan. I support moving the trail out of the wetlands at the top as this section has had problems from the

beginning. I feels that this is an excellent opportunity to plan for a healthier long term use of this trail and to build a trail in a location and with an alignment that can stand up to the extremely high use the Doctor Park trail will continue to see.

#### Day Use Areas and Trailhead Parking Expansions and Improvement Additions

I feel it is important to provide better parking at trail heads so there is no question as to where there is parking available. We have all seen the photos of people parking wherever and it needs to end.