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First name: Joan

Last name: Swift

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I am writing to comment on the North Valley Trails proposal. I have lived in Crested Butte for 35 years and I am an avid hiker, backpacker, Mt. biker and skier. I love quiet places to hike and backpack and I also love to mountain bike on well maintained trails. With tourism exploding, we need to be careful to maintain the existing trails that we have and not expand trails farther out into wildlife areas, elk migration paths and not to cut any new trails across fields of wildflowers. Mainly, I don't approve of expanding and rerouting the Snodgrass trail. I also don't approve of creating a new trail from the upper upper to Brush Creek, as the fields of wildflowers would be disturbed and there would be more problems with fast bikers vs slow walkers out to enjoy nature on the trails. A huge problem is bikers riding down the green lake trail to town at break neck speeds scaring the heck out of hikers and having to jump off the trail to avoid being run over. A trail up to Lake Irwin alongside the road would be a good addition as this area is already so busy and dusty.

Basically, I am against new trails that will damage the pristine environment and flora and fauna. Unfortunately, we have more people on the trails every summer, but if they are well maintained they will be able to handle the higher impact. Also education on how to poop in the woods and porta potties, or better yet, compostable toilets at the trail heads will help immensely. Thank you for your time and consideration.