

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2022 8:41:19 PM

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Comments: Hello,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

The northern route continues to pose an unacceptable threat to Yaak grizzly bears. According to USFWS, only three females-with-cubs remain in the entire valley.

The agency must do a better job of monitoring all trail usage and closed road security.

The current northern route is water-limited for hikers and poses difficulty to search and rescue; the southern route has more high points, cell service, and water.

The southern route would provide economic benefit to the trail towns of Troy and Libby.

We ask that you abandon this Trail project altogether, as was initially recommended in 1980 when a joint National Park Service and Forest Service study found the trail "neither economically feasible nor desirable."

This is not a viable Scoping process. The Trail is already marked on the ground and on maps and has already had negative effects on potential wilderness areas and the public planning process. Significant commitments of resources have already been made that prejudice the selection of alternatives in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act. So why should the public believe this is a legitimate Scoping process?

The Trail is clearly marked on the Flathead National Forest visitor map and the Glacier View Ranger District maps, as well as on apps like Gaia that utilize the Forest Service roads and trails database. This is a commitment of resources that prejudices the selection of alternatives, in violation of NEPA.

We also find that the Flathead National Forest reduced the Tuchuck-Whale area it recommended for Wilderness designation in its Plan revision DEIS by 887 acres to provide for mountain biking on its portion of the Trail.

The Trail should be routed elsewhere or designated non-mechanized rather than resulting in a decrease in recommended wilderness.

The Trail is already causing impacts that should be first examined in a Trail EIS. Please write an EIS for this project.

Please relocate the Trail alongside other front-country infrastructure to help serve the public's desire for more recreation opportunities without aiming that recreation and its significant impacts at the backcountry.

Why would the people already competing for backcountry camping permits in Glacier National Park, for example, want to compete with hundreds of more people prompted to do so by the Trail project and its promotional materials? Why would they want the extra trail traffic in the Belly River of GNP (that's right, your Trail map shows the Trail starting at the Canadian border and heading up Belly River, not starting at the Continental Divide as stated)? Ditto for every other stretch of the Trail. It has been shown over and over again that Trail promotion like

this quickly destroys the trail experiences and solitude being sought in the first place.

We ask that you abandon this Trail project, discontinue all its promotional materials, remove all of its trail signs and remove the Trail from all public maps and map apps. Should you refuse to abandon this project, we ask that you discontinue all its promotional materials, remove all of its trail signs and remove the Trail from all public maps and map apps. Then, and only then, can you fairly begin an EIS and public Scoping process that is not already heavily prejudiced against the selection of alternatives to the proposed action.

The agency must do a better job of monitoring all trail usage and closed road security.

The current northern route is water-limited for hikers and poses difficulty to search and rescue; the southern route has more high points, cell service, and water.

The southern route would provide economic benefit to the trail towns of Troy and Libby.

How will the proposed route effect grizzly bears and lynx? Please formally consult with the FWS on the impact of the PNW Trail on grizzly bears, lynx and lynx critical habitat.

Please have an alternative that has a trail that is not in lynx critical habitat or secure grizzly bear habitat.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.