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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Your timeline (history/future) does not include the LOGGING that has taken place on Jackson Mtn in recent years, which has drastically altered the landscape, and not for the better. Since when is clearcutting a good thing? We cannot rely on past climate over a short span of 10-100 years and assume that the forest will "grow back", because the future looks far more arid than the past. Those of us who have used Jackson Mtn, for recreation or other purposes, for many years, can only see this as a real blight.

Further, here the Forest Service is proposing a "trail system" as if this is some new idea. I and others have been riding mountain bikes, hiking, etc. in the area for closing in on 30 years (me), using existing logging roads, game trails and a few user-created trails. At times a lot of work has gone into creatively linking the logging roads and game trails into what amounted to a very good quality mountain bike system, maintained by private individuals and users to remove deadfall, and so forth. In my experience there is very little erosion on the user-created trails. The parts in the worst condition are the unmaintained logging roads that are in terrible condition and yet still left open to motor vehicles, which makes no sense if they aren't able to be maintained.

The Forest Service and its logging clients pretty much stomped out the trail system, for instance by intentionally piling vast mounds of slash across the trails. Why do you, or why does the agency, have to be mean, passive-aggressive, and so arrogant? This area was providing quiet enjoyment just as it was: now you have allowed it to be exterminated and you are offering instead a 10 or 20 year plan to create something new. Well, what happens there in the meantime, before all the public scoping, EAs, changes in agency personnel over time, funding challenges, allow you to move forward? I am now 64 years old and I'm likely not going to be biking much by the time you've even restored what you've already destroyed. So, yeah, it all sounds great, but your methodology is disappointing. It's just really inconsiderate. It is disrespectful of the local user group with whom you are now trying to cultivate favor. Instead of insisting on dominating the 'conversation', government agencies such as yours should seek to support the good things that locals are already doing to steward our public lands.

So, to make a constructive suggestion: At the same time you are proceeding with this bureaucratic process, please start in June of 2023, using Tyler's trail crew, and restore the existing trails, so that we are back to an equitable starting point.

The maps do not show the pre-existing bike trails mentioned above. I think it would be a helpful reference if these were included or identified in a distinguishable manner (color, dashes) on that overlay.

Horse trailer parking is mentioned. Are horses going to share the same trails with the mountain bikers? If so, who is responsible to repair the damage from equestrian use? Horse and bike do not belong on the same trails, so I hope this is not in your plan.

Sincerely,
Emily Deitz