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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm commenting in favor of the trail system being built in the Jackson Mountain area. I have never lived in place with as little established trails as exist (or don't exist) here. There is much public land here but very little of it is accessible by trail.

The proposed Jackson Mountain trail network would create a well planned, thought out and constructed trail network with a lot of diversity of terrain and riding difficulty currently not available anywhere locally. I think the Dust2 organization and their partners in planning IMBA have worked hard to accommodate other interests with a stake in the area, taking into account wildlife migration patterns, cattle grazing needs, logging projects and environmental studies proposed in the area. They have made numerous modifications to the original plan's trail corridors and proposed parking areas.

I've heard much comparison to the Turkey Springs area and trail network and what's gone right and wrong there. I know the Forest Service has valid concerns about dispersed camping and how it seems to have gotten out of hand in Turkey Springs. I see this proposed trail plan as a way to help manage both the camping and rouge trails currently occurring around Jackson Mountain.

The trails in Turkey Springs are very homogenous and while I'm very grateful for their existence and use them often I'd really like to have more riding opportunities locally than they offer. I'm not alone in that desire, most of my local friends head out of town every weekend in the summer to ride somewhere else. The Dust2 youth mountain bike team also seeks out other riding during their season because riding at either Rez. Hill or Turkey Springs three days a week for training makes it hard to keep kids properly conditioned and motivated to ride and race.

I also want to state my opposition to the proposed gravel pit. I see the need for a gravel pit but don't believe there was an open transparent process for the selection of this site. I think this location would negatively impact the trail network, roads that access the area and the local neighborhood. My concerns involve everything from the noise, the high volume of big trucks on narrow roads to the dust it would create, and what's in the dust. If the county believes in the merits of the gravel pit why didn't they propose it on their own through their normal open meetings instead of sneaking it into an unrelated project already underway?