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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I would like to submit my full support for the proposed multi-use trail systems that are being considered on Jackson Mountain. As a long-time mountain biker and trail user we have enjoyed biking and hiking on area trails for many years, however, we do have a limited number of trails in the area that offer terrain for intermediate or better mountain bikers. I believe the proposed trail system will benefit the community from a recreational and economic standpoint as well. Of course the trails would also provide important access to other trail user types including hiking and equestrian. I believe important wildlife habitat and environmentally sensitive areas will be protected by smart trail alignments and design.

I am also in support of the forest restoration proposals in the EA, a large part of the Jackson Mountain landscape is in an unbalanced condition with high densities of fuels and undergrowth; the proposed restoration plan will help to mitigate these potential wildfire fuels and improve forest health.

Lastly, I am partially in favor of the proposed gravel pit, I understand that the area no longer has a suitable source of gravel for road maintenance and other projects. This pit may temporarily help with this issue, providing limited access to the forest service and Archuleta County road and bridge department only. This limited use gravel pit will help the forest service to maintain key forest access roads and trailheads in the District where there are maintenance needs in the Piedra, Blanco and South San Juan access. I see several improvements being considered for Jackson Mountain including new trailheads and camping areas, I believe there will be a need for gravel to provide these amenities and to maintain the roads, same goes for other areas of the Pagosa Ranger District. I would like to suggest that the crusher equipment itself could have limited times of operations, perhaps just a few weeks a year and to designate a total lifespan of perhaps 5 years for operations at the pit. I think this would go a long way in alleviating some of the concerns by area residents.