Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/23/2023 2:59:59 PM First name: Thad Last name: Miller Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a local that enjoys mtn biking, I see the value in more trails. I also have several concerns with this project.

1) Is the FS rewarding the construction of social or illegal trails? This should be stopped and with the advent of trail cameras it is quite easy to see who is creating these trails and deal with the issue.

2) Density. Wildlife need areas where they are not disturbed. Many people do not understand how little impact is required to displace wildlife. Interactions out in the wild are very different than interactions in your yard, from the perspective of an elk. Areas such as Aspen and Breck are finding this out the hard way and trying to backtrack with seasonal closures to help with the decline in wildlife.

3) No motorized trails. As can be seen on east fork road, motorized travel is loud and destructive. NM and Utah have made it a point to cater to this crowd and we should not in the Pagosa Ranger District. How do you plan to deal with motorized traffic? Where do ebikes fall? These are rapidly approaching electric dirt bikes and as such have the same destructive power with less effort from the rider.

4) We already have a maze of trails in the turkey springs area off of piedra road. Why do we need to expand the impact to another area? Are we going to continue to push wildlife off of fall/winter feeding areas and onto private land where there are more conflicts?

5) Who is going to maintain these trails? The FS struggles to clear the trails that we have already.

In summary, I would like to see thoughtful development of a smaller number of non-motorized trails across the district and for the FS to collaborate with the development and maintenance of these trails. Illegal trails should be dealt with swiftly. I am opposed to a Phils World type of trail development in the Pagosa Ranger District as it has been done elsewhere and this area does not need to fall victim to the same impact.