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First name: Stig

Last name: Somme

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support the following comments created by CBMBA:

Overall, CBMBA appreciates the thorough analysis and context for each of the trails included in the proposed action. We believe the 14.3 miles of proposed trails, and 5.8 miles of decommissioned trail will have a positive impact on the resource and we are proud to employ our full time (seasonal) trail care and stewardship crew, the Crested Butte Conservation Corps (CBCC), to provide the needed monitoring and maintenance on the entire network to ensure lasting sustainability. Several comments throughout the assessment note that there is an existing backlog or deferred maintenance concern. Though there is a current backlog on the District, we have worked with the District to identify and evaluate those concerns in this area of scoping, and our full time seasonal crews have the capacity to manage, maintain, and monitor not just the proposed trails here, but the entire scoping area itself. We work alongside the District to partner in this capacity. We are proud to have the CBCC present and on the ground to be able to sustainably and responsibly care for the network. CBMBA is 40 years old this year. The CBCC is going into its seventh season. We are here for the long haul, and hope to be considered a steadfast and worthy partner that the District and other stakeholders can count on.

There are also many concerns and comments around 'safety drivers' on some of the proposed trails. We do not agree with the findings of 'no safety driver' around the Upper Upper to Brush Creek Trail, Strand Bonus to 409, Teo Extension, Reno Divide, and Upper Cement to Crystal Trails. Increased use, specifically in regard to UTV's and higher motorized speeds is very much a growing and increasing concern for non-motorized users. Proper planning and separation of uses is an immediate safety driver and we hope that looking to a growing population, increased use, and higher speeds will be considered as a 'need for the proposal'.

After additional review and consideration of certain trail-specific information contained in the draft EA, CBMBA is supportive of several 'Option 2' suggestions, as you will see below. We agree with IDT findings and analysis on proposed trails #1, 5, 6, and 10, and are grateful for the input and efforts of the IDT to further refine those proposed actions.

We are proud to have worked for several years alongside stakeholders, landowners, agencies, and partners to develop the plan we brought before STOR and the Gunnison Ranger District. We are grateful to see the proposed action in its current 'draft' form and hope that the final decision made will reflect the thorough analysis and the best options of this assessment.