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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

Below are my comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the NVTP

#1 - Lake Irwin Road Parallel Trail

I'm in support of Option 2. While I feel that the Wagon Trail decommissioning proposed (Option 1) would benefit wildlife, riparian, and watershed habitat (revitalize beaver habitat), we consider rationale and assessment presented in Option 2 as the better overall approach in this instance.

#2 - Upper Upper to the Brush Creek Trailhead

Im in support of Option 1 in order to minimize impacts to research, viewshed, wildflower meadows, and noxious weeds.

#3 - Strand Bonus to 409

Im in support of Option 1. Connectivity, and the seamless connection of network trails is a highly sought after experience. Although the existing road is not highly used, the 'need for proposal' (p. 6) specifically justifies the need.

#4 - Budd Connection - Ambush to Tent City

I'm in support of Option 1. In addition to the signs described in #2 (Upper Upper to Brush Creek), CBMBA would like to provide and install signs on this proposed trail that say, 'Sensitive Research - Stay on Trail' - in order to help mitigate impacts on the research sites nearby, prevent social trails from occurring during wildflower season, and from users trying to access the river.

#5 - Deer Creek to Tent City

I'm in support of Option 2. I feel this lower section, in addition to the Tent City enhancements, will provide for better management, access, and mitigation of impacts in the Brush Creek corridor.

#6 - Teocalli Extension

I'm in support of Option 2. I feel there is an 'apparent safety driver' for this trail, as high speeds are a concern with a steep, loose, and curving existing alignment on the road (NFSR 738) and the multiple uses the road is designated for. Increasing use of UTVs, alongside motorized and non-motorized use, will make this extension a valuable and pertinent addition to the network aligned with the 'need for the proposal'.

#7 - Reno Divide Road Parallel Trail

I'm in support of Option 1. Increased use on Reno Divide Road, from non-motorized to motorized, to UTV and other high clearance vehicles, is a very evident and serious safety driver. It's only a matter of time before a nasty collision takes place, and many poor experiences and confrontations have already been realized on this road. Separating the uses by creating a parallel trail is a much-needed improvement to the network and indeed suits the 'need for the proposal'.

#8 - Cement Creek Trail - Upper Cement Creek Trail to Crystal

I'm adamantly in support of Option 1 on this particular trail proposal.

#9 - Cement Creek Trail - Lower Cement Creek Trail to Caves

I'm in support of Option 1.

#10 - Bear Creek Reroute

I'm support of Option 2. I appreciate the findings of the IDT and agree with the rationale to avoid the road and minimize conflicts with administrative operations.

#11 - Dr. Park Reroute

I'm in support of Option 1.

Day Use Areas and Trailhead Parking Expansions and Improvement Additions

I'm in full support of Option 1 - the Day Use Areas and Trailhead improvements at Brush Creek Trailhead, Tent City, and Walrod Parking expansion. I appreciate the Gunnison Ranger District looking to make lasting infrastructure improvements that will help manage and maintain forest resources for the future. These areas are already overcrowded and limited in capacity. These improvements will not only prevent resource damage, but serve existing uses and needs, as well as provide for 'hubs' to encourage proper use and access. They also serve to provide for kiosks and information, along with bathrooms.

Respectfully

Patrick Myall

Crested Butte, CO