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Organization: Southern California Mountains Foundation's Big Bear Trails Program

Title: Trail Program Manager

Comments: The Big Bear Trails Program manages volunteers to educate, maintain, and improve trail conditions in the Big Bear Valley. Nearly 30,000 man hours have been donated by volunteers in the last 5 years.

The Big Bear Trails Program supports the BBMR master plan in its goal of expanding non motorized trails in the Big Bear Valley. While the addition of these trails is an excellent opportunity to expand outdoor recreation, there are concerns that the Big Bear Trails Program has regarding the project.

1. The BBMR Master plan includes an increase in the BBMR special use permitted area(SUP). As the SUP expands how will Forest Service trails in the area be impacted? These trails include Pirates, Fall line, Skyline, Fern, and Bristlecone. How will snowmaking in the expanded SUP impact the opening of Forest Service roads and trails in the spring? It is the position of the Big Bear Trails Program that all Forest Service Trails need to remain open and accessible all day and without a lift ticket.
2. With the 60 acres of additional skiable terrain on either side of the 2N10 what measures will be taken to prevent unauthorized use and damage to the forest in these areas? How will the project be designed to mitigate the potential of increased unauthorized trail building and use in areas that will have less natural vegetation due to increased skiable terrain.
3. With the proposed expansion of 12 new mountain bike trails we would see Bike Park trails and Forest Service trails connecting. How would these junctions look and be managed? We would like to see consistency in signage and access for all biking groups. The south shore trail network was built and is maintained by volunteers and public funding, keeping these trails accessible to the public during BBMR operating hours and fee free is imperative.
4. The BBMR Master plan documents highlight several unauthorized trails as existing trails on Forest Service land, while they are in fact user created and not formally recognized. These unauthorized trails fall between Snow Summit SUP and Fall Line trail on the East. On the West side of the Snow Summit SUP from 2N08 North and West several unauthorized trails are shown on the map. The concern is that these trails are not up to trail standards and increased use could lead to erosion runoff, trail degradation, and increased impacts on flora and fauna in the area.

In summary the Southern California Mountains Foundation's Big Bear Trails Program supports the expansion of non motorized trails in the Big Bear Valley and the opportunity this plan presents to increase non motorized trail access, improve the existing trail system through improved connectivity, and enhance non motorized recreational experience, but has concerns on the impacts to the south shore trails network including increased unauthorized trail development, increased maintenance needs on the existing south shore trails system and would like to ensure the proposed action includes the ability for the public to continue to have access to the current public forest service trail system.

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