

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/16/2018 8:00:00 AM

First name: Dana

Last name: Hendricks

Organization: Pacific Crest Trail Association

Title: Regional Representative

Comments: Dear Kevin, Duane, Marv, and Dan:

I am writing on behalf of the 13,300 member Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA). PCTA is the Forest Service's primary private partner in the management and maintenance of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT). The foundation for this private-public partnership for National Scenic Trails dates to the 1968 National Trails System Act, and it is reinforced by our Memorandum of Understanding. We take seriously our role of working with the Forest Service to ensure the best possible management of the PCT and the unique experience it affords trail users.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Cowhorn Connection proposal. When considering it, our biggest concern is to preserve the primitive, peaceful, non-mechanized experience the PCT is meant to provide. The Cowhorn Mountain vicinity is quite remote, and we value the wilderness-like characteristics found along the PCT there. Mountain bike trespass on the PCT jeopardizes that experience. We appreciate the Cowhorn Connection proposal's intention to provide an improved place for bikes to ride, especially if such provision can help remove, rather than create, temptation for additional bicycle trespass on the PCT.

We've observed that "poaching" of PCT happens where the PCT is presently the most obvious connection between two mountain bike routes, or, the PCT offers a riding experience, or destinations, not offered by nearby mountain bike routes. In evaluating this proposal, we urge you to rely upon good evidence that this new trail connection will provide the bike community the specific type of legal riding opportunities they're seeking, and will not unwittingly create attractive new potential loop rides that incorporate the PCT.

If the proposal moves forward, we further urge you to incorporate intersection design features to discourage trespass. Such an intersection may have:

- * right angles/perpendicular
- * decent sight-distance to prevent collisions
- * excellent signage
- * natural obstacles (boulders, downed trees, etc) to make the PCT an awkward turn for a bike
- * stiles: calf-height metal or wood horizontal member with vertical posts or boulders acting as a size-limiter (choke)
- * a monitoring system to inform adaptive management if there's trespass

- * game cameras could be mounted just up the PCT
- * we could collaborate with a local mountain bike club for downloading and reviewing data

(As a side note, in case you weren't aware, the map provided of the trail proposal had a misleading color key, making the county line appear to be the PCT. This might have caused much of the concern about the design of the intersection).

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to working with you more on this.

Sincerely,

Dana Hendricks