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Comments: The plan is clear that relocations-movement of the trail outside the planning corridor-are major undertakings requiring formal processes and high-level approval.

However, the plan's treatment of realignments is somewhat vague. (Footnote 12, page 42, refers the reader to chapter 5 for information on realignments. The link there takes one to "Management Practices.") The reader can infer some guidance as to realignments, but the lack of clarity leaves the process open to varying interpretation. Because realignments are likely the much more common action as the trail is moved off roads and problematic terrain, the requirements should be clear, and as streamlined as possible.

I hope it is the intent that these minor, uncomplicated actions within the planning corridor will follow the spirit of the relocation process but without an overly burdensome bureaucratic process. The trail has been improved many times over the past few years with what, under the plan, would be termed realignments, and this flexibility should be continued.

This is not to suggest that these smaller actions should not comply with the required FS approval and NEPA processes; they should not be done casually. The aforementioned realignments have been subject to standard FS approval and NEPA processes.

Requiring Regional Forester approval and formal optimal location reviews for these minor actions unnecessarily complicates and delays needed improvements. Approval authority for realignments should be delegated to the District Ranger or corresponding line officer in other agencies.