

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/12/2024 8:26:38 PM

First name: Chris

Last name: Deiter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USDA Forest Service Decision Review Team,

I am writing to submit my formal objection to the current Draft Decision Notice on the Deep Creek and Whitewater Comprehensive River Management Plans (CRMP). I am concerned about the potential negative impacts of closing off-road access to trails in this area.

As an off-road enthusiast and responsible user of San Bernardino National Forest, I believe that these trails are not only crucial for recreational access but also provide significant social and economic benefits to the local community. Off-road trails in the Deep Creek and Whitewater regions support local tourism, create recreational outlets that promote healthy outdoor activities, and foster respect for natural landscapes among a community committed to sustainable use.

Closing these trails would adversely impact a substantial group of recreational users and could set a precedent for limiting responsible off-road recreation in national forest areas. Rather than closure, I respectfully request that the USDA Forest Service consider alternative approaches that would allow trail access while addressing watershed concerns. Enhanced trail maintenance, educational initiatives for users, and cooperative programs with local off-road organizations could all be effective strategies to manage environmental concerns without denying public access.

I appreciate your commitment to protecting the natural beauty of San Bernardino National Forest and urge you to reconsider closing these trails. The outdoor community is ready to work alongside the Forest Service to ensure these trails remain accessible for future generations in a sustainable way.

Thank you for your consideration.