

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/26/2025 1:47:45 PM

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Comments: The Forest Service has taken the right steps in doing a site-specific analysis through an EA for the Webster Cliff Trail and by proposing to complete trail work without motorized tools and equipment.

The Forest Service should make every effort to relocate trails in Wilderness within established trail corridors. It should clearly demonstrate why it believes the Webster Cliff Trail must be relocated outside of the trail corridor in this specific area. The maps should also locate where the trail corridor is located as it is possible some or all of the proposed reroute might actually be in the corridor. The agency claims this trail section needs major relocation due to steep terrain, but provides no evidence-such as photos-in the scoping letter, and the proposed relocation seems to be in an equally steep location above Webster Brook.

Also, trail structures such as water bars are decades old, suggesting the problem may be one of inadequate maintenance. The agency must demonstrate that the trail relocation won't result in the same problem a few decades from now.

Another alternative is reducing use on the trail. The Forest Service admits that increased use is a major reason for the proposed trail relocation. The relocation would increase the length of the trail in Wilderness, thereby increasing negative impacts on the Wilderness.

All trail relocation work in Wilderness should be completed using traditional skills and tools, as the scoping letter states, rather than motorized and mechanized equipment.