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Comments: I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed re-route of the Wheeler trail above Francie's Hut.

In my view this planned re-route is entirely unnecessary, and it fact would cause significant disturbance to a fragile high alpine environment.

The existing trail has sustained itself for decades and shows no significant erosion or trail degradation. Yes it has a relatively steep sustained side hill section. But the trail surface is in great shape, the critical edge is solid and the drainage is good. The steep section has not eroded and there is very few areas that have any sort of rut.

Re-routing in this area and decommissioning the old trail would lead to a significant amount of soil and vegetation disturbance. I believe this would have a very significant negative impact on the health of the flora and fauna in this pristine high alpine environment. It could lead to the introduction of non-native invasive species and permanently impact this beautiful landscape.

The idea of destroying a perfectly adequate trail that already exists and is enjoyed my many users as-is, spending significant resources, damaging a fragile high alpine ecosystem is so contrary to the conservation and preservation principles it just does not make sense.

The trail is a local favorite of hikers, trail runners and mountain bikers. It is especially favored because of the steep, technical and challenging character of the existing trail.

Please re-think this unnecessary waste of resources and use the time, energy and money on more pressing issues that will actually help solve a real issue.

And we have many real issues in the area. Trash and human waste at trail heads, lack of bathroom facilities, significant braiding on some of the more popular hiking routes to list a couple.

Thanks for your time and consideration