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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Subject: Comment on Bayhorse Trails Proposal - Support for Balanced Motorized and Non-Motorized Access

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the current draft trail proposal for the Bayhorse area, submitted under Categorical Exclusion (CE). As someone who supports both motorized and non-motorized recreation, I am disappointed to see that the Forest Service has chosen to disregard the balanced, collaborative proposal originally developed by the Challis Community Trails Alliance (CCTA).

The CCTA proposal, submitted in October 2024, was the result of two years of thoughtful collaboration among diverse trail users, including representatives from both motorized and non-motorized communities. It called for 19.7 miles of new non-motorized trails and 13.7 miles of new single-track motorized trails-an equitable and inclusive plan that aligned with the 2019 Challis Community Trails Plan.

The Forest Service's current proposal, which designates all 33.4 miles as non-motorized, undermines the spirit of collaboration and fails to reflect the growing demand for motorized recreation opportunities. As motorized trails continue to be closed or reclassified, the need for new, sustainable single-track motorized routes becomes even more critical.

It is also unclear how the Forest Service intends to fund the development of these trails without the support of IDPR's motorized programs, which have historically played a key role in trail construction and maintenance.

I respectfully urge the Forest Service to withdraw the current proposal and replace it with the original CCTA plan, which was developed in good faith and with broad community input. Ignoring the recommendations of a collaborative working group sets a troubling precedent and risks alienating a significant portion of the trail-using public.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Kent Funkhouser

Boise Ridge Riders