

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/22/2024 7:00:00 AM

First name: Luke

Last name: Evans

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for including some of the new trails, this means a lot!

I'd still like to propose the additional trails to be included that are noted in the attached proposal.

To Whom It May Concern:

The Central Idaho Mountain Bike Association (CIMBA), a national chapter of International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA), represents 200+ members in Valley County and West Central Idaho. Our mission is to protect, enhance and create quality trail experiences for the mountain bike community in Central Idaho.

The pillars of our organization are:

- Provide a diverse range of trails and experiences for beginners through advanced riders.
- Build trails to current, sustainable design and construction techniques to endure extreme weather with minimal maintenance.
- Promote collaboration between different user groups, land managers, businesses, donors and public agencies.
- Establish a cohesive community of trail users and advocates to imagine, build and care for trails.
- Ensure trails incorporate and showcase our region's unique qualities.

Given the alignment of this proposal to our organizational pillars, CIMBA fully supports the Granite Goose Landscape Restoration Project. We appreciate the thought and input put in by the various stakeholders and user groups to arrive at the current proposal.

With respect to the Recreation Management section of this proposal, CIMBA would like to take the opportunity to provide comments and enhancements that align with the pillars stated above.

Our annual member surveys continually ask for us to advocate for and build more trails in the Greater Bear Basin area and in close proximity to the city of McCall. We have extensively looked at the project area and identified areas for potential new trails and repairs/improvements to old trails while being mindful of wildlife corridors and no-build zones previously identified by the USFS.

Mountain bikes on public lands can generally be broken into two trail types: flow trails and cross country (XC) trails. Flow trails are defined as trails that utilize existing terrain and slope to build and maintain momentum with minimal pedaling required. They often have berms and some technical features to create a roller coaster experience similar to the Upper and Lower Drain Trails. Cross country trails unlike flow trails follow existing terrain, have less gradient, and feature rolling and twisting singletrack. These trails are better suited to all user types, but may also include features like berms and rolling contour changes to add enjoyment for wheeled users. These more modern trails are referred to as "bike optimized trails". Most of the existing trails in Bear Basin are XC trails, but were built without extra features. In addition, to our proposed new trails, we feel it is important to repair and improve existing trails within the Bear Basin trail network and incorporate some of these bike optimized features.

With this request you will find a corresponding PDG attachment that better defines our proposal.

Our specific recommendations are:

1. Add the Backside Moto trail into the project and address the unsustainable sections of this trail, close access to UTV users on this trail but maintain it as a motorized single track. Work with IDPR, IDL, and CITRA to improve this route and allow it to remain in place as the only motorized connection in this area.
2. Remove the unsustainable lower portion of the Rim trail where it connects to the FA 937 Rd and allow a more sustainable alignment as shown in our proposal. This will allow connectivity to trails on the IDL ground and also provide a better experience for all users.
3. Allow new trails to be built using modern trail building techniques including multi-use trails that are bike optimized on both X/C and Flow style trails. Ensure new trails are true singletrack trails versus utilizing abandoned or existing roads. Establish directional trail management practices on some of the flow trails including the Upper and Lower Drain Trails.
4. Allow CIMBA to repair and improve existing trails for an improved user experience.
5. Adopt the CIMBA proposal as long term vision for a better and more connects trail system in the Geater Bear Basin area.

We believe these comments and proposals are in line with several other trail networks in Forest Service manage areas including trails near Galena Pass, the Wood River Valley and Teton Pass, all of which are administered by the USFS with support from local non-profit trail associations. Additionally, we reached out to the Deschutes National Forest Recreation staff to obtain information regarding management of the Phil's trail network in Bend, OR. This trail system is enjoyed by similar groups, and has developed trail management strategies for a multi-use, non-motorized trail system similar to what we are proposing. It is managed by the Deschutes National Forest with new trails and maintenance being completed via a partnership with the Central Oregon trail Alliance (COTA).

CIMBA is a willing partner in the development of a comprehensive trail plan close to McCall. CIMBA has a proven track record of cooperation and partnership through project planning, development fundraising, and most recently with the completion of the Brundage to Bear Basin trail build.

IMAGE: page 4 of 5; Map - Bear Basin Trail Proposal

IMAGE: page 5 of 5; Map - Bear Basin Trail Proposal Enlarged