



File Code: 2720/1950
Date: July 20, 2017

Dear Interested Party,

The Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District, White River National Forest (WRNF) is seeking comments on the proposed construction of a non-motorized trail in partnership with the EagleVail Metropolitan District (EVMD) with potential construction beginning later this fall and into the summer of 2018. The project would connect the Stone Creek Trail #2349 to the Meadow Mountain Trail #2124 along with other trail minor reroute adjustments in the vicinity of the project.

The project is located on National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District in Eagle County, Colorado. This letter serves to notify and invite public comment on the Eagle Vail Trail Extension Project.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this project is to improve and enhance non-motorized and mechanized recreation trail opportunities connecting local communities to existing NFS trails with a sustainable design. Currently, there is no connection between Eagle Vail area trails and trails on Meadow Mountain. As a result, a number of illegal user-created routes have developed. Implementation of the proposed action would:

- Create a more sustainable trail system
- Enhance visitor opportunities
- Improve trail connectivity

Proposed Action

New Trail Construction (from Stone Creek Trail to Meadow Mountain Trail)

1. Construct approximately 4.0 miles of non-motorized trail from the Stone Creek Trail #2349 to the Meadow Mountain Trail #2124 (see attached map). The trail may be constructed with motorized trail constructing equipment.
2. Construct a water crossing structure over Whiskey Creek approximately 1.8 miles from the Meadow Mountain Trail #2124 that avoid impacts to the stream and any wetlands.



Whiskey Creek

1. Change the travel management designation on the Whiskey Creek Trail #2348 to allow for mechanized use.
2. Remove from the NFS trail network the lower 1.8 miles of both the #2348 and #2348.1A trails as they enter State Land Board lands (see attached map).

Other User Created Trails in the Vicinity

1. Add to the NFS trail network approximately 0.3 miles of user-created routes adjacent to Stone Creek Trail #2349 as a non-motorized trail open to mechanized use (see attached map).

Environmental Analysis

Upon consultation with Forest Service resource specialists, the WRNF is considering categorically excluding this project from analysis in an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). For a proposed action to be categorically excluded from further analysis in an EA or EIS, it must fit one of the categories contained in Forest Service Handbook 1909.15 Chapter 30, and there can be no extraordinary circumstances related to the specific proposed action that would warrant further analysis. The proposal fits category 32.2 (1) “*Construction and reconstruction of trails.*”

Responsible official:

The District Ranger, Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District, White River National Forest.

How to Comment and Timeframe:

Written comments must be submitted via mail service, facsimile, electronic mail, or in person, and comments concerning this action will be most helpful if received by or before August 21, 2017. Written comments must be submitted to: Paula Peterson, District Recreation Program Manager, Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District, Highway 24, PO Box 190, Minturn, CO 81645, FAX (970) 827-9343. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or MS Word (.docx). Project details and comments may also be submitted electronically at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52056>.

Persons commenting should include: 1) name, address, telephone number, and organization represented, if any; 2) title of the project of concern (i.e., Eagle Vail Trail Extension CE); and 3) specific facts, concerns, or issues, and supporting reasons why they should be considered.

This public scoping period will be the only opportunity for individuals interested in or affected by this proposal to identify any potential extraordinary conditions or significant issues before the Responsible Official makes a decision.

Thank you for your interest in the project. To request further information on this proposed action, please contact Paula Peterson by telephone at (970) 827-5159 or by email at pkpeterson@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



AARON W. MAYVILLE

District Ranger

cc: Paula Peterson, Marcia Gilles