

Routt County Riders
PO Box 770094
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
www.routtcountyriders.org



Tara Umphries
Hahns Peak-Bears Ears Ranger District
925 Weiss Dr.
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

Dear Tara,

Since 2012, Routt County Riders has worked in a position of leadership with the Steamboat Springs Trails Alliance to develop and nurture the Mad Rabbit Proposal, a network of potential trails to be constructed between the Mad Creek area all the way to the east side of Rabbit Ears Pass. This proposal has since seen its share of changes, leading us to the most recent [Updated 2019 Pre-Scoping](#), which displays a drastic reduction in the quantity and mileage of trails to be considered and a near-total elimination of Mad Creek trails. From its origins to this newest version of the proposal, here are the ways in which future mountain biking and multi-use trails are (or will be) impacted:

- **65%+ overall reduction in mileage of new trails to be considered**
- Rejection of Ferndale from consideration for development of a gravity-fed biker-specific riding area
- **Elimination of Mad Creek area** from consideration for development of new trails and a push to eliminate established/unsanctioned trails (such as ‘MRP’)
- Elimination of the Walton Rim on Rabbit Ears and “epic ride” (50+ mile) possibilities

It is our view that with these changes comes the necessity to expand in other areas. In order to achieve the goals of the Trails Alliance proposal, the overall reduction in mileage and user experience must be replaced elsewhere. Rabbit Ears Pass can provide much of that user experience, most notably near the Highway 40 corridor. Routt County Riders advocates for the following, given the changes in the updated proposal:

- Increase quantity of trails to be built along West Summit, allowing for greater distances/loops - and allow for further development of this corridor with trails on both sides of Highway 40, including to and from Walton Peak
- Further consideration of gravity-fed mountain bike trails in the Ferndale area for riders of all abilities to increase opportunities for downhill progression in a safe way with less user conflict
- **NO ACTION** in the Mad Creek area until further wildlife studies are completed, with the goal of reconsidering a connection between Mad Creek + Buff Pass and keeping the historic “MRP” trail as an integral part of Routt County trail history.

RCR appreciates the work of the Forest Service, the Steamboat Springs Trails Alliance, and various interest groups who have contributed along the way. **We maintain that keeping a focus on the development of new and varied multi-use terrain in this area – specifically on Rabbit Ears Pass, a potential ‘flagship’ riding area and a key entry point for travelers visiting Steamboat Springs – is crucial to support the progress of our trail infrastructure.** This will, in turn, have lasting impacts on the economy and the overall health and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laraine Martin', written over a white background.

Laraine Martin
Executive Director
Routt County Riders