

Crown Royale Trail Comments. 3.15.22

A new trail has been proposed by RFMBA (Roaring Fork Mt Bike Assn) to cross the entire Crown land south/north on primarily newly built trail, adding several miles of trail intended for mountain bike use. RFVHC objects to these trail additions for many reasons some of which are detailed below. Please read and consider these as encouragement to express your own objections. The formal comment period will last until April 8, 2022 and our organization hopes to bring as many of our thoughts to the BLM as possible. Duplicate comments do not count so please rephrase or add your own thoughts to submit personally. Thank you for taking part in this important process to keep trails safe for horsemen and hikers. We love and appreciate your help!

Objections to this new trail:

- Arising from our RFVHC research on the Crown's existing trails, this proposal adds miles of newly cut trail to an already heavily used area. This incursion would be both unwelcome to other users and unnecessary for recreation as the Crown area already has a large network of trails very popular with mountain bikers.
- This proposed trail leads bikes significantly closer than existing trails to the Crown Jewel trail dedicated to only hikers and horsemen and we are concerned that placement would encourage illegal bike use on the Crown Jewel to loop, explore and thereby endanger the slower trail users that are already threatened by swift mountain bikes elsewhere in so many places. Hikers and horseman deserve to have safe recreation options that have been already dedicated to them not violated in the future.
- Further disruption of natural growth is environmentally irresponsible in our drought times that are not expected to improve as climate change proceeds to dehydrate the West. Further disruption will destroy already limited feed used for both wildlife and grazing permit livestock who call the Crown home.
- Trail building and use will cause wildlife disturbance and further endanger our dwindling wildlife population, disrupting both reproduction and their very existence that are impacted by increased, fast mechanical traffic. Wildlife does not speak for itself; they only suffer and decline. Those of us that respect their natural existence, value and right to their own undisturbed existence must speak for them. No more trails on the Crown.
- Hikers and horsemen now feel unsafe on the popular bike trails where downhill speed has become the norm for bikers concentrating on the few feet in front of their wheels for their own safety and missing the big picture containing other vulnerable users.
- Among existing trails, we are already concerned with the rapid downhill intersection of Buckhorn Trail and the Rio Grande Trail where users of all types and speeds are cruising along peacefully only to have a bike enter from the side. The Crown Royale would bring more undesired traffic into this potential conflict zone. Although north and outside of the BLM managed area, that intersection is absolutely part of the trail.
- Viewing the new version of the map provided by BLM, this bike project involves not one trail but many trails that exaggerate any impact we mention here.
- We have read that both Kevin Wright (former CPW/DOW in our valley) and John Groves feel "enough is enough" regarding more trail building on the Crown.

