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Aspen-Sopris Ranger District
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File Code: 2310
Date: February 26, 2013

Mike Pritchard
Board Members
Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association
1212 Vine Street
Aspen, CO 81611

Dear Mr. Pritchard:

The Aspen-Sopris Ranger District has received the formal written proposal for travel management changes in the Hay Park area submitted by the Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association (RFMBA). The district agrees your proposal is a thoughtful and detailed mountain bike trails plan for that area. The district also acknowledges the proposal submitted offers a viable long term vision for an enhanced mountain bike system in the Hay Park area.

As the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District discussed in a meeting on 21 February 2013 with you, the district will defer immediate action on the proposal due to limited resources in implementing the current travel management decision. The Aspen-Sopris Ranger District committed to beginning a conversation in fiscal year 2014 on an appropriate path forward for the Hay Park proposal. Given the complexity of the proposal and the fact the Hay Park area has historically been an area with multiple different recreation user groups and forest uses outside of recreation, the district anticipates some form of a cooperative process to move the proposal forward will be needed. Thus, a discussion on the appropriate type and level of a cooperative process to follow would serve as a starting point for the conversation next year.

As was further discussed with you on the 21st, the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District will continue to focus and prioritize our efforts on the environmental analysis for the Hunter – Smuggler Cooperative Plan. The district is also planning to continue work with your organization in 2013 on the Sugar Bowls environmental analysis adjacent to Buttermilk Ski Area.

Please accept this letter as the formal response to acknowledge the receipt of RFMBA's Hay Park proposal and the request for a planning effort to move forward. As your letter requested, we will work on an outline of the process to move the proposal forward when the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District begins the conversation with you next year to determine what the process might look like. Hopefully, we can model some of the key success attributes of the Hunter – Smuggler Cooperative Plan into the Hay Park process in the future.

Thank you for your assistance in improving our mountain bike trail system on the White River National Forest (WRNF) and for the greater Roaring Fork Valley. More importantly, the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District recognizes your commitment to creating a culture of trail stewardship / ownership within mountain bike riding community that includes working with the WRNF!

Sincerely,

DAVID A. FRANCOMB
Deputy District Ranger