



File Code: 2350

Date: October 17, 2012

Keith Hammer  
Swan View Coalition  
3165 Foothill Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Keith,

Thank you for taking the time to join us on the Beardance Trail hike yesterday. This trail showcases the beautiful area within which we live and recreate.

I am using this letter to document management action for the Crane and Beardance Trails. I am sending this same letter to Ron Cron.

The Beardance and Crane Trails are managed for non-motorized use. The trails allow for hiking, horse and mountain bike recreation.

We noted that the Beardance Trail location accessed via Forest Road 10222, the "old" location, is preferred over the trail location on Forest Road 9755. We will make this correction to the trail information we provide to the public and insure that signing is adjusted on the ground.

Volunteers have provided valuable trail maintenance and improvement work over the years. Trail brushing, new stone culverts and trail improvement in wet areas by volunteers have improved the trail experience while maintaining trails to standards established for these trails.

At a number of locations, constructed mountain bike features have been added by volunteers and others. Some of these features provide a path through wet areas or water crossings while other features were added for the sole purpose of providing challenge features for mountain bikers.

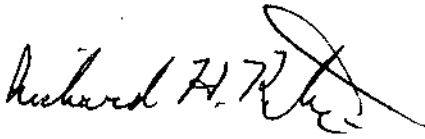
Forest Service system trails are designed and maintained to a standard which includes maintaining structures so they are safe for the allowed recreation use (Forest Service Manual 2350, and Forest Service Trails Management Handbook 2309.18). The challenge features, which were constructed by various parties, are not consistent with the management direction for these trails, they are not designed to meet recognized trail standards, nor are all of the features being adequately maintained.

For these reasons, I have directed my staff to remove existing constructed challenge features. The features that will remain will be those that provide trail passage over wet areas. Removal work will likely begin this fall but may not be finished until next spring.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard H. Ke Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

RICHARD H. KEHR JR.  
District Ranger

cc: Chip Weber, Becky R Smith, Shannon B Connolly, Joy Sather, cronauto