

“Burn Canyon Recreation Trails”

October 5 2010

A network of trails for the purpose of mountain biking and hiking and potentially cross country skiing.

I. Entirely on BLM land

II. A variety of trails (26 to 30 miles total)

- a. easy riding/walking
- b. intermediate riding/walking
- c. extreme riding
- d. more difficult walking

III. Vegetation

- a. mostly pinion and juniper trees with sparse grasses and sage brush.
- b. Some trails wind through large and very old pinion and juniper

IV. Terrain

- a. large areas of clay soil common to this area
- b. a variety of sizes of boulders, some quite large and very scenic
- c. “shale” rocky sections
- d. “canyon” riding/walking
- e. steep slopes to negotiate for ascents and descents to and from canyon bottoms

V. Scenery

- a. views into Burn Canyon and Naturita canyon
- b. views to Lone Cone Mountain, and the La Sal mountains as well as the Uncompaghe plateau
- c. some sections go through very old juniper forests accented by very large boulders.

VI. Approximately 7 miles from “downtown” Norwood.

These trails are being endorsed by the Norwood Recreation District. We are currently working on writing grants for environmental assessments and planning phases. Our intention is to get started building trails in the summer of 2011.

These trails are not part of the National Forest Proposed single track network. The future may hold a link between the Burn Canyon Recreation Trails, and the National Forest Service trails. Between the 2 systems Norwood could truly become a mtn bike single track mecca with almost 60 miles of trails within 7 miles of town.

The Burn Canyon Recreation trails offer an outstanding recreation opportunity either on foot or on a mountain bike. The descents through some of the rocky narrow canyons rival any of the most popular trails in the state of Colorado. The entry level single track trails will be fantastic for the first time single track rider. The scenic beauty encountered while riding through the ancient Pinion and Juniper forest is fantastic, especially when coupled with the large outcroppings of boulders.

The riding season for these trails will be the end of March through at least Thanksgiving, but perhaps longer. The middle of summer will be a little on the hot side, but mornings will be tolerable.

The hiking season can be yr round. Snowshoeing would be fantastic in winter.

The Burn Canyon Recreation trails are good enough to be a destination trail system. Riders could make this trail network a part of a trip that would include Moab Mountain Biking, and the single track trails of the Fruita, Co area.