



**Black Forest Trails Association  
P.O. Box 88041  
Colorado Springs, CO 80908**

El Paso County Planning Board

13 May 2021

Black Forest Trails Association (BFTA) sincerely appreciates the inclusion of a trails system in the initial proposal submitted by the developers of Winsome Ranch. The integration of trails early in the design makes it easier to adjust to landowners' needs and will undoubtedly add value to the future resident's lifestyle. Outdoor living is a leading reason people cite for moving to Colorado, and Black Forest in particular.

BFTA has one suggestion that we feel will enhance the already excellent proposal. Please, consider enjoining the trails along the main Kiowa Creek drainage in a "loop" instead of dead ending along the natural features. Studies have shown that users have greater experience and are more likely to use a loop trail versus an "out and back" trail. Our experience has also shown that trail users "vote with their feet" and will incorporate the actual roadway into their route to accomplish a loop walk. This can lead to safety issues with cars. Better to accommodate them with a prepared surface off the roadway. This could be accomplished with a single track trail within the right of way of planned roadways to connect them with one another. **Specifically we suggest creating a single track trail from the currently planned Kiowa Creek Trail intersection with Twinkling Star Lane, turning left to follow the Western side of Twinkling Star Lane North to the intersection with the maintenance road that passes along the Northern and Eastern banks of Kiowa Creek to its intersection with Winsome Way. Then create another short single track trail turning left to follow the North side of Winsome Way to close the loop with the intersection of the planned Kiowa Creek Trail.** This will keep users off the road surface and allow them to enjoy and safely complete their trail experience.

Again, we applaud the developer's effort in setting aside a significant portion of the land for green space, and trail development, and will continue to provide support as the project moves through the planning and development process. We consider this their agents Joe DesJardin and Charlie Williams to be among the very best we have worked with!

Please include us on the distribution list for future updates.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Black Forest Trails Association Board