



Proposal:

Eagle Eye, Hawk's Glide Designated Downhill

The Grand County Trail Mix Committee is proposing to designate Eagle Eye and Hawk's Glide trails as designated downhill to mountain bikers.

Purpose and Need

Eagle Eye and Hawk's Glide are currently designated as bi-directional trails, however their use is largely in the downhill direction. According to stats from Trailforks (the primary mountain bike trail mapping phone app and website), Eagle Eye sees 98% downhill traffic while Hawk's Glide receives 99% downhill traffic. This is likely due to the ability to shuttle this route, and the steep, technical nature that is not conducive to an enjoyable climbing experience.

Based on these stats and nature of the trail, there is likely very little user conflict due to the bi-directionality of the trail, and the vast majority of riders choose to ride it in the downhill direction.

The reason we would like to designate these trails as downhill is the introduction of eMTBs to these trails on March 1st. The powerful pedal assist that eMTBs provide, can allow for more user enjoyment while climbing. Trails that were unenjoyable to ride uphill on traditional bikes, can now be looked at as fun challenges.

While we don't expect to see a huge amount more uphill traffic, we want to mitigate any potential conflict, especially given the downhill speed of these trails and the present expectation of 1-way downhill traffic. Users are currently not expecting uphill traffic due to the current use patterns. A head-on collision at these speeds could be catastrophic.

We have been considering this designated directionality since these trails were built, and with the introduction of eMTBs, we believe it is the appropriate time to make this proposal.

Trails Affected

Eagle Eye:

- 2.2 Miles
- 16' Climb, 757' Descent
- Use: 98% Downhill, 2% Uphill (trailforks.com)

Hawk's Glide:

- 1.9 Miles
- 42' Climb, 697' Descent
- Use: 99% Downhill, 1% Uphill (trailforks.com)

Implementation

- Signage: GCATT will install signage at the bottom of these trails alerting users to the designated downhill directionality.
- Outreach: Trail Mix will use its channels to notify the public of this change including on social media, in the local papers, and informing bike shops.

