

Mr. Scott Fitzwilliams c/o Shelly Grail
USFS Recreation Manager
620 Main St.
Carbondale, CO 81623

Subject: Comments on the DEA for the trail from Redstone to the top of McClure Pass.

General: I a full time resident of Redstone and fully support the DEA and the proposed trail from Redstone to the top of McClure Pass. The DEA prepared by the USFS is an excellent document, clear, concise and complete.

Bicycle Safety: The 3-foot trail width from Hayes Creek to the top of the Pass is too narrow to safely accommodate crossing bicycles, as well as a mix of bicycles and pedestrians. This is particularly true going down-hill on a crusher fine surface with reduced braking distance. The minimum width for safe bicycle and pedestrian traffic is at least six feet.

Commercial operation: Commercial bicycle operations such as those that in use on the Maroon Creek road in summer should be prohibited from shuttling down-hill riders on the trail. In addition to safety issues mentioned above, commercial operations that shuttle riders to the top so they can coast down, would significantly increase congestion and overall trail use. Please prohibit all commercial use of the trail.

Winter Closure: The proposed winter closure from December 1 through April 30 is extreme and should be relaxed to better accommodate the user community. This closure would deprive the community of the trail's use for more than 40% of the year, and 100% of winter! I am a regular user of this trail, both winter and summer and do not agree with the EA conclusion that this is a sensitive elk area. Elk rarely use the area on the west side of the river, but do indeed gather on the east side. Other animals are winter no-shows during winter. Please reconsider such an extended trail closure.

Construction: In appendix 1, pg 3, 7th bullet, the earliest starting date for construction and maintenance of the trail is stated to be June 20. With the short construction season in this area, this likely would require two years to complete the initial construction of the trail and unnecessarily delay the annual maintenance required for normal winter and spring runoff damage. Please move the allowed start of maintenance and construction back to the same date as for the winter closure for pedestrians, April 30.

Thanks for listening,



Chuck Downey



Chuck Downey



GRAND JUNCTION CO. S15

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DEH Comments

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