

I hesitate to even make any comments on the proposed EA from the forest service, as I do believe this is a “done deal”. However, shame on me if I don’t express these thoughts.

What has been one of our biggest problems in recent time with forest use? It's over use! I find it ironic that the USFS is considering the encouraged increase use of the forest along the Crystal River corridor, only to then close it from Dec 1 thru April 30 and maybe even thru the end of June. So, let's bring more people - mostly from outside the Crystal Valley and by car - so it's closed to all for nearly half the year.

*As stated in the EA:*

*The proposed project is needed to:*

*Meet the growing demand for local and regional trail connectivity within the upper Crystal River Valley, including Redstone, nearby subdivisions, McClure Pass, and other system trails.*

Comment: Where is the study that informs this goal? Are people really going to use this as a sort of “commuter” route between Redstone and Hayes Creek Falls? Or between Placita and McClure? People will drive to get to all parts of this route, particularly those who do not live along this route.

*Address the existing unmanaged recreational use along the historic roads in the project area including the Rock Creek Wagon Road and Old McClure Pass Road.*

Comment: By encouraging the increased use of this route by the bike path “improvements” and then because of the associated over use, closing these paths (Rock Creek Wagon Road and Old McClure Pass Road) to ALL user for half the year. This favors the fair weather,

*Improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists along Highway 133, including local residents and families seeking nonmotorized access between Redstone, subdivisions, and national forest amenities.*

Comment: The proposed path goes from Redstone to McClure and STILL includes a number of sections along the highway. This doesn’t engender families in particular to use this trail as a way to get from here to there. Be honest, this is strictly about recreation and nothing more.

Joni Mitchell:

“Don't it always seem to go

That you don't know what you got 'til it's gone

They paved paradise and put up a parking lot” or in this case, a bike path . . .