

Mr. Scott Fitzwilliams, Supervisor, White River National forest

Disclosures: 1. I am a member of the Board of the Pitkin County Healthy Rivers Fund, but this comment is mine alone, individually, and is not a comment of the Healthy Rivers Board.

2. I am also a member of the Crystal River Caucus, and, and this comment is my own individually, but I do strongly endorse the comment of the Board of the Caucus, by letter dated February 18, 2022.

The Carbondale to Crested Butte Bike Trail has been planned, approved, promoted and ballyhooed by Pitkin County for several years. Pitkin County has already built the first segment on the Carbondaleside, from Carbondale to KOA campground. Gunnison Counmty has begun its side of the trail from the Town of Crested Butte to Kebler Pass.

Now, instead of continuing the trail from KOA to Redstone, Pitkin County proposes to leapfrog to the segment from Redstone to McClure. This maneuver does not make sense, unless you view it for what I submit that it is: an attempt to delay consideration of the greater environmental effects, of the more difficult KOA to Redstone segment, including up to 14 bridges criss-crossing the Crystal River. until Restone McClure segment is built. This will generate strong, and irresistible public demand to fill the gap KOA to Redstone.

The Crystal River Caucus has made its compelling legal argument that White River Forest should assess the cumulative environmental effects on the KOA to Redstone Segment, and to that argument I wish to add, that by failing to assess the reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts of KOA Redstone, the White River National Forest, will not only fail to comply with NEPA, but set itself up for a much more difficult assessment of KOA to Redstone, when the public can smell the bait.

Bill Jochems
Redstone