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First name: Elizabeth

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I am writing in strong opposition to the preferred alternative access option for the so-called Berliamont Estates access route. This 680 acre inholding is a terrible place for private development because it is an inholding in the White River National Forest. It is within critical deer and elk winter range and would disrupt migration corridors. I have been going to the surrounding area for many years and seen the habitat improvement projects you've undertaken. Recently you acquired State School Section 16 directly to the northeast of the Berliamont property in order to maintain the fragile habitat and migration area. Now, it seems allowing the maximum development would defeat your own purpose.

It's my understanding that the Forest Service is only obligated to give a private land "inholder" such adequate access as the Forest Service "deems to secure to the owner the reasonable use and enjoyment" of the property. There is nothing in the law that requires that the USFS give them access to develop their property to the maximum (i.e. 19 homes under 35 acres zoning). You have discretion here and I hope you'll use it. I urge you to only provide them access for "reasonable use and enjoyment" of their land. This would keep the road unpaved. Huge road improvements are not necessary and would not be in keeping with the remoteness of the property. I strongly advocate for an even better solution: please trade the land for USFS land in more impacted and less pristine areas closer to the valley floor.

If you move forward with the proposed road access, please evaluate it to determine its cumulative impacts on the area involved...and particularly on the adjacent National Forest System land, and on the watershed. It is the duty of the USFS under the National Environmental Policy Act, to fully evaluate the cumulative impacts of this proposal, as was done with land near the Wolf Creek ski area in southern Colorado a few years ago.

I urge you to please comply with the full requirements of NEPA in evaluating this request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elizabeth Kincade