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First name: Dawn

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Klein,

A recent Vail Daily article (attached) describes the decline in the elk herd around Minturn, CO. According to the article, the elk herd has declined by 1/3 in the last twenty years, the key reason being "people encroaching on elk habitat[hellip]from a number of forms, (including) from homes shrinking habitat...". As a former employee of the White River National Forest, biologist and current doctoral student, I am strongly opposed to the Berlaimont request to grant a paved road access across National Forest land to access a proposed 19 home luxury subdivision. The area in question is in critical elk and deer winter range. Granting access would exacerbate an already adverse scenario for the elk in the area.

I hope you exercise conservation leadership on this issue and grant only a gravel road to the southern end of the property as required by law. The decline of elk in the area requires decisions that minimize further impacts to elk instead of maximizing them.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Barton

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<https://www.vaildaily.com/news/minturn-elk-herd-is-declining/#.WqboCisEIXc.email>