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First name: Patricia

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Matthew Klein

Realty Specialist, U.S. Forest Service

P.O. Box 190

Minturn, CO 81654

Berlaimont Road

Dear Mr. Klein,

As a long time former resident of the Eagle Valley, I am completely opposed to granting paved road access on National Forest land to the Berlaimont subdivision proponents. I toured this property many years ago with former District Ranger, Cal Wettstein, and it is a place that should be developed for backcountry cabins, at best. In no case should National Forest land be used to build a paved road to do anything but give the landowner one point access to the southern tip of their land[hellip].and after their land is reached via the National Forest, any roads to access their subdivision lots should be on their private land only. Preferably, the road across National Forest lands in lower Berry Creek that would be used to access the lower tip of the Berlaimont land would be accessed by gravel, rather than paved, road.

In making your decision on Berlaimont's request, please consider the following:

-the Forest Service recently acquired the entirety of Section 16 northeast of the upper NE corner of the Berlaimont land from the Colorado state Land board. The purpose of your acquisition was to preserve the wildlife and open space values of the land. Please do not facilitate the Berlaimont by granting it more access than you need do. Otherwise, Berlaimont's subdivision will partially negate your Section 16 acquisition.

Development.

-the "ANILCA" law under which Berlaimont is requesting access to its land does not require you to give the developer maximum access (i.e. a paved road across National Forest land) to their land, Rather, your regulations say only that you must give them "reasonable" access[hellip]and your regs. also say you must "minimize" damage to adjacent NF lands in granting access. So, I submit that you only need to give them gravel road access

in lower Berry Creek to reach the SE tip of their land[hellip]and that is all you need to, or should, do. They can use their OWN land for anything they need after that.

-Berlaimont's request for a paved road across National Forest lands that lie above the SE tip of its land ignores the fact that this is absolutely prime winter range for elk and deer. I know current and former officials of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and every one of them thinks Berlaimont's request is an outrage.

-Berlaimont knew the lay of the land when they bought it (caveat emptor)[hellip]and they way overpaid for it[hellip]gambling that they could get paved road access. They should not be rewarded for their speculation.

The Forest Service should protect our public lands, and wildlife habitat, not compromise its value for private real estate speculation. Deer and elk populations and habitat in the Eagle Valley have been squeezed to the breaking point. PLEASE. PLEASE, do not give Berlaimont any more than gravel road access to its land[hellip]and once they reach their land, let them use their own land for any roads and houses they may propose after that. You do not have any duty to further such private land speculation.

Sincerely,

Patricia Batchelder