

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/28/2018 5:47:44 AM

First name: Sacha

Last name: and Michael Logan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please do not allow Berlaimont Estates to pave a road through important habitat

Dear Forest Manager:

The proposal to grant access across National Forest land above Edwards for a new subdivision, Berlaimont Estates, is unreasonable and unacceptable. It will require the Forest Service to amend the Forest Plan, which protects important winter wildlife habitat in the area from vehicular traffic during critical months. We should protect this important habitat and put a stop to the damaging access road. Paving the way to another sprawling and unsustainable housing development in sensitive habitat is a bad idea.

Fragmentation and development of winter wildlife habitat is the single biggest contributing factor in the steep declines currently being experienced by wildlife in the Eagle Valley. This proposed access route will slice right through a migration corridor relied upon by the Piney River Deer Herd (the biggest migrating deer herd in Colorado), and important habitat for wintering elk. The development will increase vehicular traffic through the area in winter months by hundreds of times.

Further, the development will also result in more sprawl in the backcountry and will pave over existing trails and roads used for recreation. It will result in permanent development of habitat utilized by threatened and endangered species. It will put more people and homes in the wildland-urban interface, a long way from fire stations and first responders, at a time when climate change is dramatically increasing the likelihood and severity of wildfire.

Reasonable use of this National Forest inholding would protect the values that exist in the area, including important wildlife habitat, rather than paving it over. It is not reasonable to entertain new development that will completely change the character of the area, and require a significant change in management of the surrounding public lands.

Sincerely,

Sacha Hart-Logan and Michael Logan
859 Garfield Ave.
Carbondale, CO 81623
970-963-0724