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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you for allowing public comments on this proposed trail section.

Overall, I am in favor of the entire future CB-CB trail, including this section of "natural surface" trail from Redstone to McClure Pass in Pitkin County. This section scored high in PitCo's adopted plan for a lot of the evaluation criteria. I think a single track, soft surface aligns well with the background landscape. I also think it could be good for Redstone with a more active crowd that is easily entertained with bikes and pizza.

Primarily, I am in favor of non-motorized travel alternatives that can result in reduced motor vehicle traffic. We just have too many options as Americans. We have been enabled to be entitled and our entire built landscape has been molded for vehicle access. We need tucked away places that are too remote, or too wild, or too special to just drive right up to the edge. It is good for our physical and emotional well-being to walk, bike and sweat a little for the reward.

I am also in favor of preserving the historical, wild and remote nature of the Crystal River Valley. It really is one of the most spectacular valleys in Colorado. When you drop down to Marble from McClure Pass in the fall it is a scene that one never forgets. I think what really makes the valley so special is the pristine and healthy landscape. I believe that some folks really need to see, feel and experience these beautiful places in order to feel inspired to stand up for them.

So herein lies the contradiction. I am a recreational enthusiast and I am a wildlife enthusiast. I moved here for both. How can we balance both positions and give due science, dialogue and consideration to often conflicting viewpoints? It is a lot easier to just say yes or no. Saying maybe brings with it more research, deliberation and vulnerability.

Yes, more substantial access points could result in higher visitor levels. I think some of these issues need to be dealt with incrementally i.e. the Conundrum Hot Springs and MB Wilderness overnight permit system. The bike crowd is usually pretty good about education and peer-to-peer regulation.

So, I will leave the details up to the experts. We have had trails in wildlife habitats for years. I think this trail section could be a good bellwether for the successes/challenges with future trail sections.

Cheers.