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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am very against this proposed trail. The Crystal River Valley is being destroyed by overuse. Too many people, and the problems they inevitably bring with, are putting very harmful and detrimental pressure on the natural beauty, serenity, and peacefulness of the Valley.

Consider what has happened to the Maroon Bells, Conundrum Hot Springs, 4 Pass Loop, and Hanging Lake. The popularity of these destinations has ruined them, and as a result, the Forest Service has had to spend millions of tax payer money to implement a series of confusing, inconvenient, and imperfect systems to control the numbers of people who visit these sites. Constructing a multi-use trail from Redstone to the top of McClure pass is only going to increase the number of visitors and, consequently, create the same over-crowding issues that we've seen in the very similar and nearby locales.

Also, the natural surface that is being proposed is really no good for anyone. Road bikers, who complain of too many cars on HWY 133, still wont be able to ride road bikes on a natural surface. Mountain Bikers, who often seek more fun and exciting trails, will find the natural surface loose, dull, and tiresome, and will choose to ride in Aspen, Snowmass, Carbondale, and Glenwood Springs, where there are specific, immaculately designed mountain bike trails. Hikers may be the only population who would use this trail, but why do hikers need another trail when there are already dozens easily accessible trails in the same area? Think of the Huntsman's Ridge Road, Ragged Mountain Road and Trail (820), Drift Creek Trail (815), Placita Trail (1966), Lilly Lake Trail (1964), East Creek Trail (1963) Avalanche/Silver Creek Trails (1959/1960), and not to mention all of the other Trails in and out of Marble, Crystal, and Leadking Basin. There are already a lifetime of trails and no need for any more especially considering the drastic and negative consequences that over-crowding poses to such a special area.

Please do not develop any more of this very special Valley with expensive, unnecessary, and unwanted trails. It will only create more problems further down the road that the Forest Service will have to address, and once the Valley's serenity is taken away, it is gone forever.