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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Redstone to McClure Pass Trail

Hi Shelly,

Please accept my comment on the proposed trail in the upper Crystal Valley.

I am a proponent of the Crystal Trail to link Carbondale to the upper valley. A route over McClure Pass should be relegated to the highway corridor. My support of the Carbondale to Crested Butte Trail is limited to a bike route along SH 133. Any route through National Forest west of McClure Pass brings unnecessary degradation of fairly intact montagne forest environment.

I do not value using the old McClure Pass route. As you know, the old road is a very steep grade. This makes it unsuitable to the majority of trail users. Family use and long distance road riders will not use this section of the trail. The existing route would be inexpensive to use however linking the old road to the top of McClure Pass is problematic and expensive. The area is definitely used by elk but to what extent will require study.

The base of the road at Placita has been a de facto shooting range for 50 years, whether we like that or not.

I think use of the section of the old wagon road from Hayes Creek to the pull out below the Placita river culvert (colloquially known as the Bunker Hill Road) is a beautiful and lightly used section of the valley. I question the value of bringing more forest users into this quiet part of the valley. Wildlife use of this area also needs to be looked at very closely.

My preference for a trail extension is to create a wide and safe trail in the soft shoulder of state highway 133.

This trail is not a "stand alone" trail. The creation of this trail is an amenity to the Redstone area but ultimately the trail is meant to galvanize support for the Carbondale to Redstone Trail, which is fraught with contention.

Please consider the wildlife impact of the Bunker Hill section of the trail. Realize the impractical proposal for re-development of the old McClure Pass as a viable long distance trail link.

Thank you Shelly,

John B. Armstrong