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Title:

Comments: The White River Forest Service should not allow this project to go foreword. Bikers will destroy the natural balance of this ecosystem with their reckless speed, noise and tendency to develop their own camps and spur trails. The impact on hikers and people who seek quiet serenity in this area is one thing. But the damage to wildlife is another altogether. I've seen it too many times. Hollering "yahoo" as they ride, bikers come down the trail at breakneck speeds and scare the deer, elk, bear, and coyote into the woods and sometimes straight onto a road. In this area, that might be Highway 133. The problem with the growing numbers of bikers in the woods is that they are increasingly affecting hikers and wildlife in a profoundly negative way. Their experience is all about themselves and the thrill they get from their own experience. Many of them consider hikers on the trail a momentum-killing roadblock. A nuisance. Hikers see the bikers coming at fast speeds and think to themselves, "wow, the entire atmosphere and slow pace of the natural forest just changed in an instant." Bikers see wildlife running away as a "cool" experience, not as an energy-draining episode for the deer or elk who are constantly avoiding predators. Currently, the winter use of the old McClure road by hikers is low. Summer and fall may see slightly more users, but not enough to impact wildlife in any significant or dramatic manner. Please keep it that way.