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Comments: My comments address the dynamic tension that surrounds the proposed trail from Redstone to the top of McClure Pass. Since most of this trail will be on U.S. Forest Service land, I think that the upcoming decision should be strongly influenced by the principles of the Forest Service. These principles include "connect people to the land and to one another", "meet the needs of present and future generations", and to "meet the needs of the community".

It is true that development along the Crystal River valley is displacing wildlife. Likewise, it is true that the wildlife has the vast White River National Forest and surrounding Wilderness areas in which to thrive. CO133 has far more impact on wildlife than a simple trail, so the argument that the trail would harm wildlife is almost inconsequential. The proposed trail will have a seasonal closure which, if implemented, would improve habitat over the present wintertime use. The well-designed proposed trail, which utilizes a historic wagon road, would be a single-track, natural surface on all the off-highway sections. This will provide a path for wildlife as well as for hikers and bikers.

Access to federal lands in this area is very impeded by increased private ownership. The proposed trail would be a way for the public to access the beauty of the White River National Forest. Moreover, bicycling along CO133 is notoriously dangerous and this trail would help remove the conflict between bicyclists and vehicular traffic and to open up this area to hikers.

The EA acknowledges that the proposed trail is part of a larger vision, but it is safe in its focusing on the McClure Pass section. I feel that this is an independent consideration, regardless of whether any other parts of the larger vision are ever considered.

Overall, the proposed trail from Redstone to the top of McClure Pass will be very effective in meeting the guiding principles of the U.S. Forest Service. It will provide increased safety and access for those wishing to enjoy the natural beauty of the White River National Forest.