Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/6/2022 2:38:36 AM First name: Charlie Last name: Eckart Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a current and founding Board member of the Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association I'm all in favor of the Crystal River Trail mainly to get cyclists off of 133 and to enjoy the beauty of the Crystal River Valley along the abandoned railroad bed. However, connecting to Crested Butte via a mountain bike trail should be secondary to this objective. This corridor is mainly used by road cyclists as it is a spectacular ride and is a manageable distance on a road bike. In its entirety it is not a trail to be used in full length by mountain bikers, except maybe a handfull of hard core cyclists. Has the Forest Service done a study to see which kind of cyclist would use this trail on what kind of bicycle? This is imperative. It dictates what kind of trail should be planned for. The Crystal Valley trail ideally should be initially continued from the northern end's KOA property and proceed south instead of from the most remote section of the trail. Not many people will travel to the McClure/Redstone isolated section to experience that short strip. The ridership will be much greater from the northern end by cyclists coming from Carbondale. Think about when the day comes to make the case for public and BOCC support and showing them the puny ridership numbers from the McClure/Redstone trail. It will be 1/20th of what ridership will be from an extension from the KOA. Don't kill the baby with the bathwater. Continue the trail from the KOA and get cyclists off of 133.