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Title:

Comments: Over the last 22 years in the roaring fork valley I have personally witnessed a severe decline in the elk population as a direct result of the impact from Mountain biking. First seen the development of summer trail riding on Snowmass mountain I guess diminished the Snowmass wilderness heard to 25% of what it was in the early 2000s. Secondly after seven years of public hearings and meetings with the bureau of land management over the new designation of Crown Mountain at which point mountain bikers prevailed. I live at the base of Crown Mountain and just 6 to 10 years ago we used to winter 200 elk. This year we have 45 and it's the smallest number we've ever seen. The majority of the elk wintering are cows and they used to calve in the drainages between the river and the mountain and now with the new Buckhorn Traverse trail open in May that is not possible. The recruitment levels of these cow elk have dropped off significantly, a 75% reduction in the amount of time that the crown has been turned into mountain bike land. Sad to see. I hope it's not too late to turn this all around.