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Comments: Thank you for allowing for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Redstone to McClure pass trail. My family and I are members of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers; we thoroughly enjoy recreating on our public lands including Forest Service lands in a responsible and ethical nature.

It is my hope that through the comment process impacts to wildlife will be at the forefront of the discussion and decision-making process regarding the Redstone to McClure Pass Trail proposal. Our wildlife populations have largely been decimated over the past couple decades; these animals are quickly disappearing from our landscapes which is devastating for our culture and environment.

Additionally, study after study has demonstrated the negative effects of over-development and recreation in areas that are critical wildlife habitat. Elk, Deer and other animals are dependent on these areas for habitat; they need areas to reproduce and recuperate without stress and disturbance. These animals are being stressed to death by those who often espouse their love for them through ignorance and selfishness.

This has been documented in the Rocky Mountain Wild Study by Landscape Ecologist Paul Millhouser; in the Roaring Fork Valley since 2000, the elk herd has declined 50 percent. This study highlights direct negative impacts to the herds such as overdevelopment, fragmenting of landscapes, altering travel corridors as well as increased recreation. This is also documented in the Reproductive Success of Elk Following Disturbance By Humans During Calving Season by Gregory E Phillips and A. William Alldredge, both with the Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology. An overall 40 percent reduction in the elk/cow ratio was observed via simulated recreation in the Vail area. The science clearly shows that these impacts are directly related to human activity. Personally, I have observed seeing less and less animals annually; while encountering many more people on our public lands. I have also encountered many recreators who blatantly disregard forest service and public land rules geared towards striking a balance between access and stability of our wildlife. Furthermore, in my opinion there are more than enough trails in the area specifically geared towards recreation. It is my personal belief that trail building should be halted until we have a better understanding of the impacts on wildlife as a whole.

We as hunters and anglers know better than anyone how the quality of habitat is directly linked to the health of our wildlife. The proposed Redstone to McClure Pass Trail should be based on the most relevant science that considers the overall impact to wildlife.

I encourage the Forest Service to provide an environmental assessment on the entire proposed 83 mile trail as proposed by Wilderness Workshop prior to moving forward with any portion of this project. At this point in the process; I strongly oppose this trail and stand as a voice for the voiceless, our wildlife.