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Title:

Comments: As a resident of the Crystal Valley and an avid biker I oppose this trail for a multitude of reasons. I understand why people want this path and yes, safety is an issue but if that's the case are we going to put a trail next to every road? There are plenty of other areas to bike. Unless I am mistaken (which is certainly a possibility) I have seen where the trail is designated to be constructed and although they say it's going to be from Redstone to McClure Pass, there was an article in the paper awhile back that talked about linking Carbondale to Crested Butte, so I can see where this is going. Contrary to others opinions (that lack proof to back up their talk), I personally know that this trail is going to impact wildlife due to where the trail will be constructed and the wild life that I have seen. There are mountain lions, bobcat, deer, elk and lynx in these areas. Although it has been suggested that there will be seasonal closures, I have a tendency to doubt that (give them and inch.....) (cross country skiing). Even if seasonal closures are implemented, let's consider the cost of this project, both to construct and to maintain. I think we can put this money in more practical places in this valley (and I don't mean another art center!) Years ago there was a project called hidden gems and it seems like no gems are hidden anymore in these Valley's. How many more trails do we need?! We have plenty! I remember a time when we all enjoyed off-season but it seems like there is no off-season anymore and we just keep bringing more and more people to this valley. Yes we are a tourist based Valley but with this massive influx of new people that have moved here, I have seen an erosion of etiquette and an array of trash. Years ago a acquaintance of mine moved to Austria and mentioned some thing that made me cringe when I heard it but now I understand why. As much as I am opposed to this concept, if we want to continue to flood this pristine Valley with more and more people, perhaps we need to adopt a permit system for use. I have seen many areas that used to be untouched now flooded with people and campers and RVs with generators running constantly and it has broken my heart. What is happening to our valley?!