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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

My personal observations support the EA's analysis that the off highway segments of the proposed trail (Bear Gulch and Old McClure Pass Road) are already used by recreationists year round. This use appears to be increasing each year. I think unmanaged recreation is more detrimental to wildlife than the proposed managed recreation. The proposed winter closure will actually improve condition for wildlife at their most stressful time of year.

I also agree that this trail proposal is a standalone trail and the analysis is appropriate. The trail connects trail platforms that already exist and are currently in use. It connects communities and people to the National Forest without significant impacts to wildlife or the natural environment.

The larger proposal to connect Redstone with Carbondale is wrought with additional issues including private property, wildlife, riparian impacts, bridges, and expense. This proposal, if it ever moves forward, will require an in depth analysis (probably an EIS) of the entire segment. Many of these issues do not exist on the current Redstone-McClure segment.

I have a specific comment regarding Special Uses and Commercial use of the proposed trail (Page 13 and 14 of DEA). Special Use Events (such as trail races) should be limited in size and duration and only allowed on an infrequent basis. Large or frequent events do not fit with the rural character of the Crystal Valley. Any commercial use that would involve shuttling bikes up to McClure Pass for a downhill ride experience should be prohibited as this would drastically compromise safety and user experience on the trail.