

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/20/2022 3:31:27 PM

First name: Doris

Last name: Downey

Organization:

Title:

Comments: A trail to fight climate change.

I am writing in support and gratitude for the comprehensive Environmental Assessment submitted by the US Forest Service regarding a trail from Redstone, CO to the top of McClure Pass. The effects of climate change demand that we address the need for safe non-motorized human travel by foot and bike.

As a 60 year resident of Colorado and a nearly 30 year resident of Western Colorado, I have seen dramatic increases in residential and commercial development along Highway 133. All of this continues as motorized traffic increases substantially. Bike trails abound in the Roaring Fork Valley, but for Crystal Valley residents there is no safe option on Hwy 133.

Concerns have been raised about wildlife. As a frequent user of the Old McClure Pass road in both winter and summer, I can honestly say that sign of elk and deer are rarely seen on the west side of 133 near Old McClure Pass. However, road kill by cars and trucks continues at a tragic pace. With the increase in car and truck traffic in the past few years, encouraging elk and deer to cross the highway from the river on the east side seems a disaster for wildlife.

While I understand the desire for a narrow trail on Old McClure Pass, safety would dictate a trail wide enough for walkers and riders to safely cross. Further, motorized bikes should not be allowed on any unpaved trail. Accident reports suggest that many e-bike users are not particularly skilled at managing crusher fine surfaces.

A safe way to travel in our valley on a designated trail that takes people out of their cars is a win/win situation for us and for the environment.