

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/20/2022 3:42:05 PM

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Comments: The proposed Crystal Valley portion of the planned Aspen to Crested Butte trail currently incorporates a portion of the undeveloped, single-track hiking trail between Hayes Creek and Placita crossing Bear Creek. The proposed Aspen to Crested Butte trail also proposes to incorporate the old McClure Pass road which, likewise, is currently an undeveloped single-track trail. I hike both of these trails several times per week and am opposed to any environmental assessment and subsequent management plan adopted by the White River National Forest which, would deny or limit access to and use of these portions of the trail during the winter months or any other time of year.

The basis of the draft proposed environmental assessment regarding the proposed Aspen to Crested Butte trail in particular regard to the above-described segments of the proposed trail seems to be based upon a zero net sum impact goal: increased usage of these trail segments during the summer biking season must be offset by decreased access or no access and use during the winter months. In effect, the Forest Service is favoring one class of recreational forest users; bike riders, over hikers. Such a bias is unwise and potentially unlawful. Accordingly, I would encourage the White River National Forest staff to revised the draft environmental assessment to remove all seasonal closures of the above-described segments of the proposed Aspen to Crested Butte trail.