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Comments: I respectfully request that the Forest Service consider the full impact of the entire 83-mile trail development that has been proposed through the Crystal River Valley by Pitkin County. This used to be called the Carbondale-to-Crested Butte Trail. Apparently, it is being looked at segment-by-segment and not in its entirety. Breaking 83 miles of trail into separate segments and making decisions with a narrow focus is completely missing the point. Our valley is very narrow and needs to accommodate both human activity and wildlife. The best way to do this is to keep human activity through the valley along the 133 highway corridor. This would allow the wildlife to continue to live and move through the valley on forest land.

Regarding this particular segment, Redstone south to McClure Pass, of the entire trail Carbondale to Crested Butte. NFS website states "The proposed trail is about 7 miles in length, of which, 5 miles is on NFS lands." The highway corridor from Redstone south to the summit of McClure Pass is about 8.5 miles. I am not sure why we would be willing to destroy 5 miles of pristine wildlife habitat for a 1.5 mile short-cut. Please take a more in-depth look at this situation. Destroying any forest land through our narrow valley will have detrimental effects on the fragile wildlife ecosystem. Another thing to consider is that our valley has no cell service. Keeping the trail in the highway corridor would allow for human health/injury emergencies to be addressed far quicker.