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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Please don't allow this trail. My family landed in the valley 100 years ago. I was surprised by the ERO Consultants study since they didn't thoroughly cover the Bighorns, birds of prey, lynx, wolverines, pikas, ptarmigan and rare plants. Perhaps because they weren't familiar with the watershed and used old data. This area is bracketed by the well known and unique Assigination Ridge and McClure Pass Roadless areas connecting critical migration routes. You can look up their undisturbed and wild qualities online. It's imperative to not expand impairment of these features on adjacent acreage. A trail along 133 and the old road will only compact more soil and roots, increase trampling and wildlife disturbance including nesting birds. It would take a daily presence of either the county or the district to enforce leashing dogs, seasonal closures, trail user conflicts and prevention of bandit trails. Neither entity has the funding for trail maintenance and enforcement for existing trails let alone new ones. What's really disconcerting is the narrow focus of impacts for this 7 miles as if there's no connectivity to surrounding landscapes. This attitude by open space, mtn biking groups and public land entities are exactly what's caused the fragmenting of our side and back country. The USFS site for the White River even says there's 300 trails on the forest and claims there's hundreds of mtn bike trails. That doesn't even include county, BLM and State lands. Creating more trails to accommodate additional users only serves to increase and spread disruption of fragile ecosystems. There are already hundreds of miles of road biking routes on roads with shoulders. I know, I'm one of them.

Small sampling of recreation and wildlife articles included. CSU has studies too.

<https://mountainjournal.org/putting-dollar-values-on-nature-often-blinds-us-in-assessing-the-costs>

https://www.backcountryhunters.org/trails_vs_elk_they_re_just_dying_off

<https://mountainjournal.org/research-examines-impacts-of-outdoor-recreation-near-booming-bozeman-montana>

<https://therevelator.org/roadless-conservation-habitat/>

<https://writersontherange.org/guess-who-has-outsized-clout-on-public-lands/>

<https://www.aspennature.org/classes/disappearing-elk-loving-our-wild-places-death>

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