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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

Addressing the movement of bikes in the Crystal River Valley is important as the mix of vehicular traffic with bicyclists is fraught with problems. One must also take into consideration the impact of a trail on wildlife. My comments are as follows:

- Preferred route: A bike trail located along the Highway 133 which would not increase impacts to the elk herds or other wildlife in the area. Keeping the trail adjacent to the highway sustains a pattern of wildlife/human interaction. Even building a trail on the old McClure Pass route could have detrimental affect to wildlife. Putting the trail on the old Old Wagon Trail route puts it in an area above Hays Creek that is a haven for the elk. Having the trail open in the months of May and June would mean that increased human activity would occur at the sensitive calving time of the elk. The location of any bike path should take this into consideration.

-The details shown at the public meeting for a soft trail 3-8' wide adjacent to the highway does not improve the safety of cyclists. Having a trail separated from the road where possible (like from Carbondale to BRB) is ideal but if that is not possible, creating a wider paved trail adjacent to the highway would be preferred. Pitkin county has a bike trail from Aspen to the Music School which clearly delineates the trail path of the cyclists and motorists.

thank you