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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Our family expresses great concern for this trail being built and the impact to the various wildlife that inhabits the lands directly to the east and west of 133 whom utilize this area as a corridor to and from the wilderness on the east and west side of the valley throughout all seasons. We witness wildlife (e.g., wild turkey, deer, elk, bear, fox, raccoon, coyote) utilizing this corridor daily.

Additionally, we are concerned about the impact of further erosion along 133, especially on the west side where the valley experienced many landslides this past summer. The construction of a trail and recreation may further vibrational dissonance and erode established life-giving root systems. Considering erosion and in response to the vibrational disturbance of the pulse of of Castleton Towers (Utah), Tempest Williams (2019) illustrated the impacts of the vibrational disturbance of anthropocentric forces: "the whirling blades of recreation and too often of rescue, slicing through the air, are in fact threatening to erode stone from the inside out" (Loc. 4126).

Our family also expresses concern about the increase of vehicle traffic and parking in this area and these negative impacts on the wildlife and the already vulnerable landscape and Crystal Valley watershed.

As athletes who run, hike, and bike on the established 133 to access the many already established nearby trailheads, we can understand the human benefits for this trail and the connection to nature. However, we have continued to return back to the question: at what cost? And this question brings forward the pulse of the land and more-than-human world. What is the cost of the more than human life that has inhabited and guided this region? And what is the purpose of this trail? What about the next generations? Has there been any conversation regarding maintaining already established trails in the area that yield the same direction (e.g., huntsman to coal creek?) Have/are we (humans) listening to the pulse of the land here and asked it's permission? What might it tell us?

We hope the idea of this trail will be reconsidered such that the voices of the land, the river, the wildlife, and the ancestors of this place will be considered and invited into this conversation.

Reference

Williams, T. T (2019). Erosion. Kindle edition. Sarah Crichton Books.