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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Dear Recreation Manager,

Professionals that work with wildlife in this area have made it clear of the enormous conservation values of this river corridor and the dire consequences of building this trail. This area is fragile and irreplaceable. The trail, in its current iteration, would do irreparable harm to one of Colorado's gems and its inhabitants. What seems startling to me about this process is the number of prominent voices who seem to have been ignored. Nobody knows this part of the valley better than Perry Will, Kevin Wright and John Groves of the CPW. They have all spoken of the irreparable harm to the ecosystem in the Crystal River Valley once this conceptual trail leaves the 133 right of way. Further, they agree that among forest users, that cyclists in particular have the most detrimental effect on wildlife.

When will there ever be enough trails for the cyclists of the Roaring Fork Valley (over 300 miles and counting...)? It is not surprising that among the benefits that are listed in the local mountain biking organization's web page regarding this trail is "conservation". This is laughable, and illustrates the disconnect between recreationists and their actual impact. The valley has made enormous sacrifices already in the name of recreation, including The Crown, Prince Creek, Sutey Ranch, Coal Basin and Hay Park, to name a few. All of these areas once teeming with wildlife, are now changed forever. All came with an environmental impact study, all received the blessing of a wildlife biologist. I am not suggesting that we don't need trails. I am a frequent biker and hiker. For wildlife, however, our approach to recreation is like death by a thousand cuts. For many animals, this trail will literally be their end.

The Crystal River Valley is far too pristine. This trail, in its current plan, should not be built.

I appreciate your time and consideration.