

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/1/2023 2:13:45 PM

First name: Liz

Last name: Tucker

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi,

Thanks for your hard work on this project. I think it's really exciting. The only minor objection, really more of a question, I have, is about the need for the seasonal wildlife closure. When I look at the graphic showing elk and bighorn sheep habitat, it seems to show the highest use where the trail is adjacent to the highway, and around Redstone and nearby communities. From a practical standpoint, it's hard to imagine how the addition of a crusher fine trail and associated human activity significantly adds to the wildlife impacts. The portion of the trail that diverges from the highway corridor is not in an area identified as an elk migration pattern, and crosses a small amount of elk winter range.

I think that it's a shame that existing casual use of this trail in the winter will be eliminated because of the proposed action. I would argue that the limited use this trail would see during the closure period pales in comparison to the highway corridor and residential uses in the area, and does not significantly differ from the existing use. I've never used this trail in the winter, but I feel sorry for the residents up there who are losing an option for a quiet winter morning ski. Common sense and NEPA don't always go together, but maybe in this case?