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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I agree with a gravel path from Redstone to McClure (and Crested Butte) on Bear Creek(?) trail and the old McClure road, with remainder running along Hwy 133, as long as there are well-enforced winter closures to humans and especially dogs to protect wildlife. I do ski up into Bear Basin (near Hayes Ck Falls) occasionally, and the elk love that area. We were in there a couple weeks ago, and saw a small bull elk. He didn't run off, we were downwind and far enough away, but if we'd had a dog with us, I guarantee you we would have impacted him. Even though I use both those areas in the winter, I will happily give up that use if the area would be protected and closed during winter months. As far as the overall plan, I feel strongly that the path should follow Hwy 133 from KOA to Redstone due to the extreme impacts to wildlife in many places along that corridor. Anyone who wants to recreate on the path, and doesn't like a highway route, can drive their car to Redstone, maybe buy some food or souvenirs in Redstone, and get a great wilderness bike ride in starting from Redstone. Once we build a path, it will never be removed. We need to respect wildlife in Crystal Valley and keep any bike path out of their critical habitat. Filoha Meadows, Red Wind Point, Avalanche Creek areas ALL need to be avoided and protected. There are far too many people who bring their dogs up Avalanche all winter long despite the wildlife closure signs, including the signs that say "Absolutely no dogs" posted where they park. I live across from Avalanche Creek, and I educate people all winter long about why their dog-walking needs to happen elsewhere (I point them to Coal Basin or McClure Pass). You would be appalled at the reasons a few people give why their dog needs to recreate in the middle of critical winter habitat for bighorn and elk, but you would also be encouraged to know that most people, when educated politely, put their dogs back in their car and thank me for letting them know. We have a strong ethic for protecting wildlife here. Let's keep it going for generations to come.