

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/14/2023 7:18:29 PM

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Comments: My name is Josh Wamboldt, i am the owner of Pair A Dice Outfitters, Inc. DBA Avalanche Outfitters. I have been a resident of Redstone since 2016 where i operate my business in the White River National Forest, where we offer horseback rides and hunting trips. I have many concerns on this entire trail system being built, and used. I grew up in the Eagle Valley where i have seen many of these types of trails be planned, built and used or lack of used is a better term.

Hwy 133 has become a very dangerous road in the summer time, with the influx of tourism traffic, speeding, bicyclists etc and a huge lack of presence from Pitco Sheriff, it is a free for all that has become to be known by many residents as the Paonia 500 Race Course. So for my first concern coming from the the issue is a "natural Surface" trail this will work for dog walkers, mountain bikes, strollers and walkers/joggers, but i guarantee Road bikes will not use this, keeping them on the roadways and not helping with one of the biggest issues on the hwy. Bicycle paths that have been built between Gypsum and Vail are Paved surfaces and are rarely used by road bikers due to the "danger of the slow moving traffic that frequents the paths, making it unsafe for the bikes in case of coming around and area and hitting a slow moving object" If any of you has ever driven hwy 133 in the summer and came around a corner where there is either a head on vehicle in your lane passing a bicyclist or a bicycle in your lane, you will know that stress. It is very rare that i do not have a trailer hooked to my truck with horses inside, i drive hwy 133 a pretty constant 40-45 MPH, which is under the speed limit. I am constantly being passed by other vehicles at mach speeds for not running atleast 65. The amount of locals that may or would use this path to get from Redstone to subdivisions is very small, there is already a small walking path that goes from the Redstone Coke Ovens quite a ways south on the side of the road that is used by the few residents in the area. Otherwise most residents walk/hike or ride up Coal Creek RD, it is alot more peaceful and scenic going that way especially not having to listen to the constant travel of high speed vehicles on HWY 133. This trail will not provide much benefit to making the Hwy safer for motorists.

There has been a study done

https://www.backcountryhunters.org/trail_based_recreation_and_its_impacts_on_wildlife. This has highlighted the effects of human recreational traffic on the wildlife. Anyone who has driven HWY 133 has seen the array of wildlife constantly close to the road way. Elk, Deer, Foxes, Bighorn Sheep, coyotes, bobcats, bears and mountain lions have constantly been seen on and very near HWY 133. No it is not safe for them to be that close to the road but it also highlights how close these animals do live to HWY 133 and are comfortable being there. This proves it is habitat for these animals, this trail will be cutting right through their habitat, much of it is areas i have seen Elk and Deer have their calves and Fawns. Is this trail going to be shut down until mid July when these young animals are able to follow their mothers to the higher country? How about the resident Elk and Deer that inhabit these areas year round? A Resident herd of about 20 elk constantly roams from the Coal Basin Cattlemans camp south towards Marble and CR3. There is also the herd that seems to constantly hang in between the upper and lower road of HWY 133 near McClure Pass, from Hwy 133 to the top of McClure pass. Elk and Deer herds have been in a constant fight for survival with the loss of winter habitats turning into golf courses and sub divisions. The State recently voted to introduce Wolves which is going to put even more stress on this wildlife.

Redstone has plenty of trails around that are already there and used, East Creek Trail to the water tower is highly used, the Trail from the Redstone Campground to Redstone Inn is highly used, Coal Creek RD, the Boulevard plus all the extra trails up Coal Creek RD. The coal basin trail system maintaining the use of the old mine roads makes for the exact same idea of recreational usage as this proposed trail, flatter trails with slight inclines great for hiking, dog walking, biking, ETC. As well as the Coal Basin Ranch, where there is already over 13 miles of biking trails. These trails will have ALL the same uses as the proposed McClure Trail. NON MOTORIZED

usage, therefore per USFS rules does not allow Electric Bikes on the trails, which this trail has been deemed for non motorized usage.

Maintenance of these trails is another questionable concern, Pitco has had issues with regular maintenance in the Redstone area due to staffing issues already. The USFS has had issues with staffing, even keeping trails from being maintained due to staffing and budgets. Who will the maintenance of this trail fall on? The Maroon Bells area has 100's of miles of trails that some of which the locals, and Outfitters assist in maintaining. I do know the trail is to be "closed" in the winter which would mean the trail would not need any maintenance at that time, but simple road maintenance has already posed a problem. How long will this trail be maintained before it is deemed to much work? How will this trail be maintained Weekly, Monthly, Bi monthly, once a year? Some areas are to be 8' wide while others are 2' wide this seems to be very inconsistent and seems to me many of these areas would be unused. Especially with this trail planned to be connecting Carbondale to Crested Butte, if it does go through shouldnt the trail be built to the final specs the first time instead shutting it down again in the future and spending more money for a second construction process.

It is now the time to stop putting human recreation and enjoyment in front of wildlife. These cant speak for themselves, this money can be used for better enhancements of already altered landscape. The Redstone Campground could use a huge update, Avalanche Creek Campground, Existing Trails in the Redstone and Marble area. Could all use updates and help that would be more beneficial than a test strip of an 80 mile connecting trail. If you want to get from Crested Butte to Carbondale there are already existing trails and roads to do just that.

I personally would much rather take this money and use it for kids in the Redstone and Marble area, The Redstone Park just went through an extensive renovation for tourists and the "Summer Concert Series" whos producer has said they will never move it back to the Redstone Park after having it pushed on the Redstone Stables. Yet the kids park there was not updated and basically ignored, the Ice Rink area was made nicer but is useless in the summer and should have been made into a basketball court for kids. Use this money for this test section for better means than just a test for an idea that isnt even going to be used as hoped.

Besides the amount of use that it probably wont have, the impact of the wildlife area and local wildlife, further hurt to the landscape that has almost completely reclaimed itself once naturally, being destroyed and re-altered again. Trash along the trails, Dog Poop, Dog Poop Bags, Human Excrement, lack of cell service in case of emergency, lack of bathroom facilities, lack of parking, ETC. Stop this plan and put the money to better use, id plan on more support from the local sheriffs first, more patrol in the area, especially if PitCo and USFS is planning on more recreational traffic. Cover the basics needs first, dont put the cart in front of the horse. meaning we dont need a huge influx of recreational traffic with no idea how to patrol and make it all better. We cant even monitor Penny Hot Springs Properly, extensive camping along 133, Avalanche Creek RD and Coal Creek RD. Speeding down hwy 133, any local issues and complaints. In case of Emergency Redstone is typically a min of 45 minutes for any help, marble is even worse. fix our infrastructure before we add more to take care of.