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First name: Chet Last name: Cotten Organization:

Title:

Comments: Negative impacts of recreational trail building and trail use on wildlife and wildlife populations are well documented. Ungulate populations in southwestern Colorado are already in decline and increased disturbance in critical wintering ground and calving grounds will only add to that. Furthermore, rewarding the illegal building of illicit mountain bike trails by incorporating them into a trail management plan will only encourage the building of additional illegal trails in critical habitat. Wildlife need areas where they are undisturbed, particularly in winter. These illegal trails should be shut down and funding allocated to enforcement in that area. Users willing to build illegal trails cannot be trusted to adhere trail closures or seasonal closure on their own. Do not give in to this abuse of our public lands and direct contravention of so many rules and restrictions put in place to protect wildlife and wild places.