

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/23/2023 3:39:28 PM

First name: Matt

Last name: Jaeger

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

As an active member of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, an avid sportsman AND mountain biker, I strongly urge you to reconsider the projects proposed for the Jackson Mountain area. This is critical wildlife habitat that deserves protection. Human encroachment in wild places is devastating our precious wildlife and the sporting activities associated with it. You can see this on the ground in highly developed, mountain areas such as Vail and Winter Park. The level of human traffic due to trail creation and human accessibility have, quite frankly, led to the disappearance of deer and elk. I use these areas frequently year after year. I enjoy riding the trails, but am respectful of CPW seasonal closures during sensitive calving seasons. I know many other trail users are not. I have stopped hunting in Grand County all together. After so many seasons not seeing elk or deer anywhere except on private lands, it's pretty clear to me what human activity has done to that area. Sportsman bring tangible and impactful financial benefit to communities surrounding wildlife habitat, while (I would argue) leaving a minimal footprint on the land as opposed to those who are out building illegal trails or gravel pits. There are other places for these activities to happen that are less impactful on wildlife. Recommendations for adjustments to the proposed plans have been made and must be given more consideration in this regard. I am hopeful that my children can not only enjoy the amazing riding in this great State, but that they will also still have the opportunity to get lost in truly wild places and enjoy the pursuit of wildlife in it's natural habitat. Please protect our wild lands by rejecting these current proposals.

Regards