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First name: Chris

Last name: Chambers

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a 17 year SW Colorado resident, hunter, and former San Juan NF employee. I oppose the proposed trail system development in the Jackson Mountain area for the following reasons:

I believe several of the trails proposed were originally created illegally by mountain bikers- The US Forest Service should not tacitly approve of this activity by making illegal trails system trails.

My understanding is that Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff's concerns about these trails being located in sensitive wildlife habitat were not given credence and that alternative sites with lower wildlife habitat impacts were not considered. The mule deer and elk herd numbers in this area are already low compared to historic population levels- the additional stress of siting trails in their habitat will continue this decline. Wildlife habitat on the San Juan NF is being significantly impacted by the proliferation of unauthorized trail creation by mechanized and motorized users. A recent study on trail impacts to elk in Eagle County shows a 50% reduction in the elk population since 2007 based on aerial surveys by CPW staff (source- https://www.backcountryhunters.org/trails_vs_elk_tjeu_re_just_dying_off)

The seasonal wildlife closures in place at present are not effective due to a lack of funding and limited USFS Law Enforcement Officers to patrol large areas of our public lands. Plans for this trail system do not utilize available technical literature from CPW staff such as "Colorado's Guide to Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind" - available resources such as this should be used during trail planning to minimize impacts to existing large ungulate populations. I strongly oppose the development or conversion from illegal trail to system trail on the North, South, and West sides of Jackson Mountain.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project.

Chris Chambers