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Title:

Comments: Public Land Managers,

In an ever changing world of Wildlife getting the short end of the stick at every turn, I feel this is yet another example of people getting rewarded for appalling behavior. The majority of the trail "system" in question appears to be mostly comprised of illegal trails that people created without thought to location or consequences to the land or the Wildlife that try to call this place home.

I am curious if a proper process will be followed to decide if this area is in fact a good place to put a trail system that cuts into an already shrinking habitat for wildlife within the region. I also am very concerned that CPW recommendations are not at the top of the list or even get looked at when it comes to habitat destruction of this nature in illegal trails that want to be converted into forever trails. Any more, it appears that anyone can start a trail system wherever they want and eventually get it cleared for a trail system that steals vital habitat from already pressured animals. This trend sets a horrible example of how easy it is to force trails wherever the least conservation minded want them to eventually exist.

From expanded buffer zones, to areas that become impossible to enforce from seasonal closures, to direct loss of calving/ fawning grounds and seasonal use patterns changes, to increased winter/stress mortality the absolute uncontrolled and unregulated manner in which trail systems like this on end up becoming permanent is happening at an alarming rate.

I am a lifelong resident of Colorado and am watching it turn into one large trail system that leaves the wildlife we have pushed to the edges losing another battle for space to live.

Before another trail system gets rubber stamped, maybe an inventory of the trails that already exist within the region and the state should be a starting point to see where we are and where we should be headed to conserve some of the critical areas that get segmented by trail systems These areas will never be the same for the wildlife that rely on them now, essentially cutting that land out of the list of places for them to go. I have watched the trails in the Grand Valley near Grand Junction and Fruita chew up a tremendous amount of winter range that once was utilized by seasonal stressed wildlife. Areas around these trails that 10 years ago had useful areas for wildlife, are now places that wildlife avoid even in stressful late winter when they need these areas the most.

Instead of creating more trails that chew up miles of critical habitat, maybe we can inventory the trails we have and put more focus on making them compatible with our current needs.

We have enough trails!!! I propose the Jackson Mtn Trail System be rejected, sometimes no is a completely legitimate answer.