Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/23/2023 3:34:59 AM
First name: Cedar
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Let me be clear: none of what I'm about to say has anything to do with Keep Routt Wild. I have not spoken to the board as a group or individually about my following comment. Please file this as a response from Cedar Beauregard, an individual, and nothing more.

I am very concerned about the individuals who have to make this decision and where they go in their careers after this decision. What motivation will you have to explore real questions with real science? Why find the answer if it doesn't matter anyway? I am also concerned about the relationships between the individuals on opposing sides moving forward. It is a very small valley, and it is impossible to avoid each other. Let me explain.

We all know that a finding of FONSI is a deliberate act to "stay within" the 2A funding and the ballot language that the City of Steamboat has available. The justification is that both "sides" have conceded enough. This decision isn't based on science! The forest service is equally distributing, the best they can, the last container of French fries to the annoying children they are stuck with at the table.

I get it.! We are all stuck with the 2A ballet language like a bunch of caged monkeys that have no way out. If the door for compromise is opened, the funding ends. If the trails are overly modified, the funding ends. If it is determined that an EIS is justified, all the funding goes to it, and none is left for the trials. What an awful conundrum we are all faced with! Or is it?

Suppose the Forest Service owned the impossible situation we are all in with open dialogue and let science dictate the decision. What a breath of fresh air that would be! I am confident that alternate funding sources would arrive, and less impactful locations would be discovered. Setting a fantastic precedent! That will motivate the entire Forest Service to perform work that everyone can be proud of deep into the future!.

But if the door to the truth stays closed and we dance in the cage until the end, we all will lose. Including you!

For everyone living in this valley, including yourself, please do the right thing and let the truth prevail over all else.

Sincerely,

Cedar Beauregard