Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/16/2024 3:29:46 AM
First name: Dennis
Last name: Humphrey
Organization:
Title:
Comments: At first the Eagle Vail Trail extension sounds like a wonderful idea. As an avid mountain biker and overall trail proponent I was initially all for this project but when I began to consult with my neighbors on Deer Blvd and general Eagle Vail community many valid concerns were raised. The overall community may want this extension however the majority of those who live in Eagle Vail especially those who will be directly impacted are not in support and have not been communicated/consulted with until now about this proposed trail extension.
This trail in its current alignment is going to be adjacent to nearly all of the south side of Deer Blvd homes where the new trail is proposed, in many cases overlooking currently private backyards. As someone who lives at the base of the social trail that is to be replaced, I can attest that sound travels very clearly along this hillside and the conversations of the few people who do find themselves on this old game trail carry clear down the hillside. Opening roughly 30 backyards up to the public should not be a community decision rather an Eagle Vail homeowner approved decision. At this time this has not been the case.
The eagle vail trail is a community walking/biking distance based trail that has no public parking other than the Stone Creek trail where parking is already becoming an issue on weekends. The character of the trail and its current users resembles this. Adding this connection will significantly increase traffic on the trail.
Adding an entrance at the Beaver Creek roundabout raises safety concerns. For how busy the Beaver Creek roundabout is adding significant bikers, dogwalkers, and other trail users crossing a tourist heavy traffic flow on a curve with limited sight distance seems risky. The current pedestrian infrastructure in place needs improvement. While this has more to do with the Town of Avon it should be a consideration.
How will E-Bikes be addressed? A sign saying no e-bikes will only deter people so many people. Any trail user can attest to this.
Wildlife. If this trail becomes reality, I strongly suggest a seasonal wildlife closure for the new section of trail.
Will the trail solve the current "problems"? Sure. It will take a lightly traveled "social" trail that mostly lies on private property and move it just over the line. However it will significantly increase use in the area, it will likely increase user conflicts on the current eagle vail trail, and it will increase pedestrian traffic at an already dangerous crossing.
I am saddened by this reality as I have also dreamed of avoiding the HWY 6 bike path to connect the current eagle vail trail to other trails on Beaver Creek. I love trails especially ones that connect our current trails however this connector has a much bigger impact than meets the eye.
Thank you.