Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/21/2022 6:32:39 PM
First name: Kendall
Last name: Chastain
Organization: Colorado Mountain Club
Title: Conservation Coordinator
Comments: Scott Fitzwilliams, c/o Shelly Grail, Recreation Manager
620 Main Street
Carbondale, CO 81623
Submitted Electronically via https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=56913

Dear Forest Service Staff,
On behalf of the Colorado Mountain Club and our members in the CMC Roaring Fork group, I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the Redstone to McClure Pass Trail Project DEA. This project is necessary to meet the increasing demand of the public for developed trail systems that connect towns with existing trails. While we generally support the development of new, sustainable non-motorized trails that do not conflict with surrounding natural resources, we have some concerns about the Proposed Action that we wish for the Forest Service to address.
From the maps in the DEA document, it does not appear that the proposed trail would connect with other existing trail networks, except perhaps coal creek, so it is unclear what this alignment achieves. Rather than creating loop opportunities, it would likely be used as a downhill trail by mountain bikers, with shuttle access from the road. This would likely create higher density traffic on the road in this area, and create additional safety concerns for cyclists and pedestrians, rather than mitigate them, as is one of the goals of this project.
As is currently proposed, the Redstone to McClure Pass trail does not appear to directly connect to any formal existing trails and would only serve as a connector at some point in the future as a section of the CCB Trail. We recommend that connections to existing formal trails, specifically the Huntsman Ridge Trail #3517, the Placita Trail #1966, Raggeds Trail #820, and East Creek Trail #1963, be implemented as a part of the Project Design Criteria.
We support the designation and development of formal parking areas to improve trail access. However, the forest should consider additional improvements such as toilets and trash facilities that will accommodate the expected increase in recreation use along these trails. Additionally, the environmental assessment should assess the need for, and impact of, a wider trail and include a plan to pay for the future maintenance costs for both the trail and developed parking areas. We also recommend that the Forest Service monitor camping and conduct preliminary planning for designated dispersed camping areas, so that a plan is ready should a need arise with increased visitation to formally designate camping areas.
We hope the forest will carefully consider these impacts and incorporate suggestions into an additional Project Design Criteria. Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Julie Mach, Chief Conservation Officer,
Kendall Chastain, Conservation Coordinator

Colorado Mountain Club underwent outreach to the local club chapter, the Colorado Mountain Club Roaring Fork Group. Below are some of their comments:

"I'm a Colorado Mountain Club member, leader, former member of the State Board, member of the Roaring Fork Group, which was the Aspen Group, and started with the Denver Group in 1968. I'm very familiar with the Redstone-McClure Pass hiking area. This will be a key link in the Crested Butte to Carbondale trail. Please include a link into the midway town of Marble that is in Gunnison County."
-Tom Kurt, CMC Roaring Fork Group Member

"As an avid cyclist and hiker living on highway 133, I am very much in favor of the proposed additional trail from Redstone to McClure Pass. The trail will provide non-motorized access which is much needed!"

-Beth Johnson, CMC Roaring Fork Group Member