



Keep Routt Wild Mad Rabbit Compromise Proposal for Objection Resolution Meeting

Keep Routt Wild has created a compromise proposal for Mad Rabbit Trails Project that offers significantly new recreational opportunities while minimizing the impact to wildlife and Colorado Roadless Areas. Since this proposal is a proper subset of the draft FEA, an additional EA will not be required.

This proposal...

- Increases motorized trail opportunities, including e-bike access and loops.
- Adds significant new mountain bike and hiking trails in a variety of locations, including a new “epic loop” configuration.
- Adds campground amenities and ADA access opportunities.
- Avoids critical wildlife areas and minimizes impact to roadless areas.

It is described below:

- **Include:** Motorized Trails 15, 16, 17 These are outside of any roadless area and elk calving areas. They would offer new motorized opportunities, including e-bike access and loops.
- **Include:** Dumont and Meadows Campground Trails 11 and 18. These offer campground amenities and ADA access.
- **Include:** Trails 14, 19, 20, Along north side of US40. This allows the creation of a new “epic loop” from NFSR 296 TH on the west to Dumont Lake on the east and then up CDT trail. Keep within ½ mile of US40 to minimize incursion into Long Park CRA. These are all in elk production areas. Institute seasonal closures, regardless of snow depth, from May 15 through June 30th to minimize impact to elk calving.
- **Include:** Trails 32, 33, and 34, These are the Uranium Mine Trail connector and a trail near Mad Creek. These offer new recreational opportunities with minimal incremental impact to wildlife.
- **Eliminate:** Trails 7 and 31. This alternate CDT loop is redundant and creates an island of habitat loss in elk summer range. These trails are in the same general area as the eliminated Trail #10. Trail #10 was eliminated, in part, due to sensitive elk summer range. This trail configuration carries similar impact. Additionally, there is a foreseeable action as the Continental Divide Coalition is proposing trails to connect to the CDT in this general area.
- **Eliminate:** Trail 21. This is a loop that goes deep into Long Park CRA.
- **Eliminate:** Trails in Ferndale and that connect to Ferndale. This eliminates Trails 22, 23, 25, 27, and 30. Trail 24 was eliminated in draft Final EA and should remain eliminated. This proposed network results in trail densities in CRAs at approximately 2.5 miles/sq. mi., well over criteria specified in Colorado’s Guide for Building Trails with Wildlife in Mind. The functionality of these trails can be relocated to the ski resort, Emerald

Mountain, or onto other public lands in a separate action. Elimination of these trails avoids elk production areas and impacts to the Long Park Roadless Area.

- **Decommission:** All non-sanctioned trails as stated in draft FEA.
- **Restrict:** non-motorized wheeled vehicle usage to designated routes only as stated in draft FEA.
- **Institute:** Areas of wildlife area closures for **all** CPW-indicated elk production areas in the project area, regardless of snow depth. Elk production areas would have a seasonal closure May 15 through June 30th.
- **Include:** Pre-decisional Adaptive Management protocol with specified criteria and enforcement measures. Coordinate with CO DNR/CPW for the metrics. These metrics should include wildlife metrics, complying with traffic densities for semi-primitive recreation in roadless areas, and violations of seasonal closures.
- **Phased Development:** Initial trail development should include only a select subset of trails. Monitoring of those trails should inform the above adaptive management and enforcement needs. Once the specified criteria have been met for initial development of trails subsequent development may occur, but not prior to.