

October 22, 2018

Winnie Delliquadri  
Kent Foster  
Kelly Northcutt

RE: Routt County 2A Trails

Dear Kent, Winnie and Kelly,

The 2A Trails Committee, along with Routt County, the City of Steamboat Springs, US Forest Service and various user groups and business entities have an extraordinary opportunity to achieve the long-held visions of Routt County residents while enabling a valley-wide amenity for bicyclists, pedestrians and equestrians. In particular, work towards a corridor trail that connects Steamboat to the outlying communities of West and South Routt. Having led and managed bicycle tours in New England and Europe, this would be an amenity that benefits both residents (for commuting) and visitors alike. The bike trails in Switzerland are an exemplary model.

I am a life-long resident of Routt County. I had the pleasure of exploring both constructed and deer trails of Spring Creek, Buffalo Pass and Copper Ridge as a child hiking, biking and horse-back riding while growing up in Strawberry Park. Having worked in outdoor tourism for a couple decades also gave me a unique perspective for what visitors seek in their adventures. Living in West Routt, the goal of a connecting trail to Steamboat has been in discussions for several decades. Working towards a trail that enables users to access the valley (without being in a vehicle) is a goal that is worth achieving.

From 2007-2009, I was the Project Manager of Vision 2030 which was designed to provide "compass points" for our County and respective municipalities on defining the Vision, Desired Outcomes and Recommended Actions for our future. The report represents participation of more than 1,600 Routt County residents over a two-year process that "gathered the wisdom of valley residents, updated the 1994 Vision 2020 report and defined a vision that retains and sustains our heart and soul assets for generations to come through community stewardship." I've often described Vision 2030 as the Compass Point for the County, Municipalities, Non-Profits, Governmental Agencies and Citizen's Groups to align their 'road building' (in this case trail building) to be aligned with what matters most to our residents. I am concerned that current discussions do not align with the 'compass points' publicly documented. Plans that incorporate public funding must benefit the greater good. It is also critical that we need to carefully plan for being 'visitor ready' and absolutely ensure that our greatest assets are very carefully stewarded and protected. Any concern for wildlife habitat should be highly considered as well as the proposals should benefit the highest number of users.

Please 'hit pause' and ensure the highest desired outcomes of our residents and visitors are aligned with the proposed trail priorities of 2A Trails. I urge you all to take the time, NOW, before trails are constructed, habitat impacted and funds allocated, to ensure that plans align with the Vision 2030 Desired Outcomes and Actions for respective areas of Agriculture and Open Space; Recreation and Transportation – outlined below.

Sincerely,



Tammie Bowes Delaney

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