



## Keep Routt Wild Mad Rabbit Compromise Proposal 2022

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 wild places.

It is described below:

- **Include:** Motorized Trails 15, 16, 17 These are outside of any roadless area and elk calving areas.
- **Include:** Dumont and Meadows Campground Trails 11 and 18. These offer campground amenities and ADA access.
- **Move:** Trails 14, 19, 20, 21, from north of US40 to south of US40. This moves trails in elk production areas and Long Park Roadless Area to the south, outside of CPW-identified elk calving areas and largely avoids Colorado Roadless Areas.
- **Include:** Trails 32, 33, and 34, These are the Uranium Mine Trail and a trail near Mad Creek. These offer new recreational opportunities with minimal incremental impact to wildlife.
- **Eliminate:** Trails in Ferndale and that connect to Ferndale. This eliminates Trails 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, and 30. The functionality of these trails would 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.
- **Eliminate:** Trails 7 and 31. This alternate CDT loop is redundant, creates smaller loops that will increase user conflict, and creates an island of habitat loss in elk summer range. There is a potential foreseeable action as the Continental Divide Coalition is proposing trails to connect to the CDT in this general area.
- **Decommission:** Non-sanctioned trails, restrict non-motorized wheeled vehicle usage, and add areas of wildlife area closures for all CPW-indicated elk production areas in the project area. Elk production areas would have a seasonal closure May 15 through June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Include:** Pre-decisional Adaptive Management protocol with specified criteria and enforcement measures.
- **Phased Development:** Initial trail development should include only a small select set of trails. Monitoring of those trails should inform 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.

This proposal increases motorized trail opportunities, including e-bike opportunities, and adds significant new mountain bike and hiking opportunities, including ADA opportunities, while simultaneously avoiding critical wildlife areas and roadless areas.