

Vail Daily letters to the editor

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DAILY STAFF REPORT
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Vote 'yes' for our kids

This is a terrible economy. 3B is a tough sell. A poll was conducted and found 60 percent would not support it. So why continue? The consequences are too dire to not continue.

Eagle County Schools have spent the past 10 years improving academic performance. Across economic lines, kids above and below the poverty line have both shown increased test scores. Historically speaking, this is unheard of! This despite several years of significant budget cuts.

Colorado ranks 48th in the nation for higher education funding (per personal income level). The state and federal dollars continue to diminish. The district has cut \$9 million from its budget in the past two years. The cuts have all been to beneficial programs and staff in our schools. However, the classroom has remained largely untouched. The additional cuts have no place to go but into the classroom. Additional cuts are expected.

Possible cuts: elimination of middle school sports, cuts or elimination of extra-curricular activities and specials, decrease and elimination of existing bus routes, possible closing of up to three schools, cuts to teacher pay and many fewer teachers.

The projected annual tax impact of the proposed mill levy override is \$18.85 per \$100,000 of a home's market value. On a \$500,000 house, that is less than \$100 per year. Yes, it is a bad time to ask, but the consequences of not asking risk damaging the futures of our children. The money that we pay in increased taxes go directly to the school district to help our children.

This is about the kids of Eagle County, the most valuable part of our community. It takes a community to raise a child, and support of 3B will be one way you could contribute to the well-being of our children. Vote "yes" for our kids! Thank you for your support.

Tammy Rodell Eagle

Respect the law

In response to Mr. Guerriero's proclamation "Forest roads threatened" in Thursday's Vail Daily (Letters to the Editor), it appears to be a bit of saber rattling by predicting civil disobedience in the event rogue trails and subsequent roads are closed, but I respect his opinion, and furthermore, to the point of response, if not outright rebuttal.

One of the truths of the issue is the Forest Service is attempting to protect the resources in our forests from the damage caused by unauthorized and illegal trails and subsequent roads built and "maintained" by a "variety of recreationalists" (unique characters riding off-road vehicles).

These rogue trails begin where it's convenient for the rider to abandon the road it came in on.

The access road to the radio towers in west Vail leads to gated private property, where riders used to turn around and go back ... then one rider left a path of knocked-down grass as it weaved through the brush, and into the aspens, crossing the private property, leading to game trails, about a mile away in the National Forest.

The next year, it was full-blown singletrack used by many weekend riders full of civil bad behavior. The forest full of game trails soon evolved into a forest of off-road vehicle trails with berms, whoop-de-dos and eroded sections under the power lines that resemble fault lines. It's been about five years, and the path across the private land is now a bona fide two-track road leading to a "maintained" system of roads and trails that allows access through the forest, from Muddy Pass to Red Sandstone Road. This same scenario is happening all across the West.

The landowner can't do much about it in Sweden, but the hunters, tourists, and mushroom pickers, the horseback riders, outfitters, firewood gatherers, the naturalists, backpackers, and woodpeckers, and all those that support the U.S. Forest Service, the Division of Wildlife (now the Colorado Parks and Wildlife) and other public land managers can and do act as a community to

see that our public lands are maintained and the resources protected.

I understand that all forest users become protectionist at one time or another, but understanding the law of land (you tread on) should be respected always. I hope to cause more, to stand up for what is valued. As for that other variety, please "leave on the road you came in on."

Randy Fischer Vail

Agrees with letter

Thank you for printing Randy Guerriero's letter, "Forest roads threatened." Randy's letter hits the nail squarely on the head. I wish the Forest Service would listen to his observations.

Don Illingworth Vail

<http://www.vaildaily.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110917/LETTER/110919878/1022&parentprofile=1065&template=printart>