

TO: Honorable Mayor Smith Hymes and Council members
RE: Public Comments Received Road 779
DATE: Compiled on February 17, 2021



Council has received multiple public comments via email between March 2020 and February 2021. The various comments are compiled below in chronological order. Private email addresses and phone numbers have been removed.

From: McDavid, Janet L.

Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 1:09 PM

To: Sarah Smith Hymes <shymes@avon.org>; Eric Heil <eheil@avon.org>; Jennie Fancher <jfancher@avon.org>; Jake Wolf <jwolf@avon.org>; Scott Prince <sprince@avon.org>; Chico Thunon <cthunon@avon.org>; Tamra Underwood <tunderwood@avon.org>; Amy Phillips <aphillips@avon.org>

Cc: G McDavid

Subject: Wildridge - Proposed Action to Quiet Title

I was astonished to learn that the Avon Town Council is considering an action to quiet title in Wildridge as an end-run around the Wildridge covenants, which require that you secure consent from Wildridge homeowners with respect to a proposal to build community housing. The notion that you would even consider doing so without any consultation with Wildridge homeowners is quite outrageous. The supposed rationale is that there are more Wildridge homeowners now than there were when the covenant were adopted. That is simply inconsistent with any concepts of democracy. Allowing input from Wildridge homeowners should have been the first step in this process, not a step that you would try to avoid through an action to quiet title. But that appears to be the direction you propose to go. It is very surprising that elected officials have so little regard for consultation with their constituents.

For reasons that I don't understand, the Council does not seem to think it needs to consult with Wildridge homeowners about issues that affect them most directly, such as the 2016 mountain biking trail proposal or the proposal to expand US Forest Service Road 779 or now the Wildridge covenants.

I do not object to the idea of building additional housing because there is a need for additional affordable housing. But there are issues involved that directly affect Wildridge homeowners, such as additional traffic, effects on wildlife, and most significantly, emergency access and egress from Wildridge in the event of a major fire since, as you know, there is only one road out of Wildridge. These are all issues that should be discussed directly with Wildridge homeowners rather than trying to find a way to avoid having to discuss those issues by filing an action to quiet title to eliminate the restrictions in the Wildridge covenants.

Janet McDavid
5531 Coyote Ridge
Avon, CO 81620

From: Carroll Tyler
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 2:19 PM
To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>
Cc: McDavid, Janet L.
Subject: Quiet title Issue

I agree with Janet McDavid's letter of today objecting to this proposed action. You all have got to listen to us in Wildridge who are against this and turning Road 779 into a motorized highway!!

Carroll Tyler

Carroll Tyler

Broker Associate | Realtor

Slifer Smith & Frampton Real Estate

230 Bridge St., Vail, CO 81657

From: James Tharp

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 6:52 PM

To: Tamra Underwood <tunderwood@avon.org>

Subject: Fence

Hi- we are at 4686 N Point. BLM adjoins our property. How come they removed the fence delineating public lands behind our house? If there is no replacement this fall vehicles will just drive around the gate effecting wildlife and further degrading FS 779. Seems like since we are directly effected it would be nice to provide an explanation.

Thanks- Jim and Caroline Tharp

From: Dee Wisor
Sent: Saturday, September 5, 2020 9:40 AM
To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>
Cc: Eric Heil; Paul Wisor
Subject: Wildridge Survey

Mayor and Member of Council,

Because I have to participate in a client's Zoom council meeting on Tuesday and may not be able to participate in the Town Council meeting, I am writing about Road 779 in Wildridge. The staff report regarding the Wildridge survey says:

- Metcalf Creek USFS #779 - This access point and route are valued by the community for a wide variety of passive and active recreational uses. There is strong support to maintain access into the future. The former USFS District Ranger supported the concept of moving a gate and USFS signage down to Wildridge Road East to prevent vehicles from driving up in inclement weather. Additionally, some grading and drainage improvements are necessary for longevity of this access portal. Staff recommendation: Move forward with design of improvements for Town's portion of this access.

To the extent the Staff recommendation is based upon the survey results, I think there is some nuance to the responses and I have the following observations:

1. In response to the question of whether the survey responders support continued motorized **and** recreation use of Road 779, 43% were supportive and 31% were opposed. Based upon the way the question was worded survey responders might support only passive recreation on Road 779.
2. But the responses to the question of whether the survey responders support discontinuing motorized vehicle use of Road 779 shed more light on this. 43% supported **no** motorized use while 32% supported motorized use.

The combined responses then support maintaining Road 779 for recreation uses, but only a third of respondents support continued motorized vehicle use. It is also of note that a substantial number of renters support motorized vehicle use, but of course they have no stake in property values in Wildridge. A near majority of property owners who are either full or part time residents are opposed to continued motorized vehicle use.

I do support the concept of moving the gate and signage to the intersection of Wildridge Road and Road 779. This will be particularly important this coming winter as the Forest Service has removed the barbed wire fence that was supposed to keep out snow mobiles in the winter and calving seasons (although it was regularly cut). The Forest Service is building a new gate but does not intend to replace the length of fencing that previously existed. Building a gate on Wildridge Road should reduce or eliminate illegal use given the steep terrain at the bottom of Road 779. I imagine with a reduced or different skiing experience at Vail and Beaver Creek this coming season there will be more interest in backcountry recreation.

If the Town intends to construct any improvements on Tract I, which is the tract across which the Road 779 easement is located, remember that this is an open space tract under the Wildridge covenants and there are very limited uses of open space provide for in the covenants. Open space may be used for

utility facilities and easements. “Also such tracts may be used for emergency vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, and cross country skiers...” The covenants allow for limited improvements on an open space tract for things like picnic areas and benches. The covenants provide that open space is not to be used for informal or organized gatherings that may alter or deface the natural quality of the tract. If any planned improvements to Tract I include constructing a parking area, that is not permitted under the covenants. Also, the covenants prohibit parking along any public roadway. While I recognize that the Town may not have any legal duty to enforce the covenants, as a property owner the Town is bound by the covenants for the benefit of all Wildridge property owners just like my wife and I are.

If Council determines to proceed with the staff recommendation, I would appreciate learning more specifics about proposed improvements and am willing to be a part of any group formed by the Town to evaluate and advise on any improvements.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the Town and its residents, property owners, and businesses.

From: Caroline Tharp
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2020 7:58 PM
To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>
Subject: USFS road 779

I live in Wild Ridge

I am opposed to motor traffic on the road

a gate at the bottom seems like a good idea.

Caroline Tharp

From: Dee Wisor
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>
Cc: Eric Heil; Paul; Jan Wisor
Subject: Wildridge Survey and USFS 779

Mayor and Members of Council,

I could not participate in the September 8 Council meeting. I have had the opportunity to listen to the recording. I want to provide my observations about comments made at the meeting about (1) USFS Road 779 and (2) use of Town roads by off-road vehicles. (When I use the phrase off-road vehicles, I mean those designed principally for off-road use as opposed to vehicles like Jeeps or other 4-wheel drive vehicles designed for both on- and off-road use).

First, I want to respond to comments that there is a NIMBY issue here and that people purchased their property knowing the road was there. I suppose my wife and I fall into that category, but I will say that before purchasing in Wildridge in the spring of 2015, I asked a Wildridge resident and was told the road was rarely used. I suppose rarely is in the eye of the beholder. More importantly, I did what lawyers should do and read the covenants. The covenants expressly prohibit off-road vehicles on the dedicated roads in the subdivision. A reasonable person would rightly assume that there would be no use of Wildridge roads by off-road vehicles. But we do not need to debate whether the Town can or should enforce the covenants, because (1) State law prohibits unlicensed vehicles on public roads and (2) Section 33-14.5-108, C.R.S. says “No off-highway vehicle may be operated on the public streets, roads, or highways of this state...” and says this is a class 2 petty offense and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars. I think one of the reasons for this State policy is safety. See <https://www.governing.com/topics/public-justice-safety/gov-roads-atvs-fatalities.html> and <https://svia.org/opposition-to-on-road-use/> The Town can and should enforce State law. And as I noted in recent public comments, please consider what behaviors you as policy makers find appropriate for one part of Town as opposed to others.

There was also discussion at the meeting about jurisdiction over USFS 779. There is no doubt that from the gate north, this is USFS jurisdiction. But the use of the easement over Tract I and the use of Tract I itself is Town jurisdiction. It seemed that some on Council were focused on the use of 779 is a USFS matter and not for the Town. But I want to remind you of the recent history of 779. Pursuant to the USFS 2011 Travel Management Plan, the USFS was going to decommission 779. It was only because the Town appealed the decision that the road remains open to summer motorized access. It seems that the Town has already put itself into the position of determining the use of 779 rather than leaving it solely to the USFS.

I also want to clarify when the road is closed. Currently, the USFS closes 779 from about November 20 to about June 20. As I understand it, the reason for the closure from November to June is to protect wildlife in the winter months and during the calving season. This is part of the mission of the USFS to balance recreation uses and the needs of wildlife and is done pursuant to

White River National Forest Management Area 5.41. As an aside, I encourage you to read the article in the summer/fall edition of Vail/Beaver Creek Magazine entitled “Coloradan Pastoral” about the impact of our backcountry recreation on our wildlife.

Finally, it strikes me as odd that a municipality that is part of the Climate Action Plan for the Eagle County Community wants to facilitate an activity that is based upon use of fossil fuel. As you know, the Plan calls for greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of 25% by 2025 and a minimum of 80% by 2050. According to an EPA report, a dirt bike operating for an hour generates as much pollution as 20 automobiles operating for an hour. In addition to wildlife impacts and air pollution, there are also other environmental impacts of off-road use such as erosion, soil compaction, creation of fugitive dust, water quality issues, and the spread of noxious weeds.

If nothing else happens on 779, I do agree with the Council direction to place a sign at the bottom of 779 describing the access restrictions. However, I do not understand why the Town would not put a gate at the bottom of the road that would open and close in connection with the USFS closure policy. It would keep people who might go up the road notwithstanding signage only to find the road closed at the USFS gate. It would also reduce or eliminate the illegal winter use of 779. At the meeting, there seemed to be some connection of the gate at Wildridge Road with a need for parking. I do not see the connection. If the USFS has opened 779 then the Town gate would be open and there is no need for parking. If the USFS has closed 779 then the Town gate would be closed and there is no need for parking.

Thank you for reading and for your consideration. While some members of Council may not agree with my perspective, I appreciate that we can have this dialogue which is how a healthy, functioning representative government should work.

Dee Wisor

4730 Wildridge Road E

From: Devon Decrausaz
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2020 9:19 PM
To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>
Subject: Forest Service Road 779

Dear Avon Town Council,

My name is Devon DeCrausaz and my husband, Rick Smith, and I live with our family at 5796 Wildridge Rd E., adjacent to your open space tract and the Forest Service Rd. 779 to the east.

After seeing the Vail Daily article about the 779 Road, I watched the recording of your September 8 Town Council meeting. I applaud you for recognizing that a decision regarding motorized use is not within the Town of Avon's jurisdiction. I also applaud you for recognizing that this is a very complicated issue, that many residents feel passionately about it, one way or the other, and that more information and public input is needed before making any decision regarding the Town's parcel that abuts this Road.

In 1998, my husband and I moved to Wildridge and subsequently bought land and built because we love the proximity to the National Forest. Although we hike a ton behind our house, motorized access is very, very important to us. Because of this, going forward, we would appreciate an opportunity to take part in any discussions at the Town or Federal level. To the extent that you can, it would be great to be informed in advance of those conversations taking place.

I understand that some of our neighbors do not like the dust or noise from the 779 Road. I can honestly say that neither dust nor noise have ever been an issue for us. Pollen and ash seem to produce just as much residue on our cars as dust. The OHV vehicles that drive by are not nearly as noisy as the large construction delivery trucks or even the trash trucks.

Regarding unlicensed vehicles on the road, some Towns embrace the use and enjoyment of the National Forest and have made it legal to drive to and from access points on public roads. If this is not the case in Avon, I think you should consider making that change.

I heard your comments about OHV drivers misbehaving. In my opinion, this is the few, not the majority. I also feel there are significantly more licensed vehicles driving at excessive speed around our curve in Wildridge Rd. than OHV vehicles. The Town police do fantastic job. I have faith that they can educate the few without the need for additional regulation.

This is a very complex and challenging situation and there are many, many stakeholders. The Town may need manpower to work through this issue. There are many of us in the community that would volunteer to help. If you see an opportunity, please let me know. I am passionate about this and happy to help in any way I can.

Thank you for all you do and for serving our community.

Kindest regards,
Devon DeCrausaz
PO Box 797
Avon, CO 81620

From: Colin Meiring

Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 3:24 PM

To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>; Sarah Smith Hymes <shymes@avon.org>

Subject: USFS road 779

Dear Mayor and council members,

Thank you for conducting the in depth Wildridge survey.

We as community members really value the importance of having an input and voice to so many local issues.

I'm writing in regard to an issue that seems to have favorable support in moving forward: Improvement of USFS road 779.

I live at 4660 North Point, Avon 81620

My property backs up directly to this road and I've seen the misuse, disregard for civility and litter abuse that occurs on this road daily.

- The concept of moving the gate and signage to the intersection of Wildridge Road and Road 779 is questionable.
- The Forest Service has removed the barbed wire fence that was supposed to keep out snow mobiles in the winter and calving seasons (although it was regularly cut).
- The Forest Service recently built a new log fence of 20ft on either side of the existing gate, but does not intend to replace the length of fencing that previously existed. FYI, the logs are so easy to lift and remove.
- Building a gate on Wildridge Road might reduce illegal use, but I fear and very much suspect, that the snow mobiles would then ride up my road, (North Point) and cut through my property as well as my neighbor's and the lot East of mine which is undeveloped. This has happened repeatedly before even without a gate obstacle.

My objections with improving this USFS 779 road are:

1. Increased traffic. Traffic on an improved road will be at higher unsafe speeds. Locals use this road to hike and walk dogs off leash.
2. Increased litter. (Who is going to maintain this new improved road and pick up all the trash?) I am presently able to keep up with litter control daily on the existing road, but increased use will = increased trash!
3. Illegal camp fires! (I regularly call Avon police about people camping at the existing gate and worse.... I've had a clueless hunter pitch a tent in my back yard) I fear this will increase with road improvement and especially parking.
4. I have to bury and kick black coal remains from camp fires at least every other week at the gate.
5. Google maps concern!!!! Im constantly redirecting lost out of town people who have been incorrectly guided by Siri up this USFS 779 road. No idea how this happens? BUT, it will be sure to increase with a new and improved road. There was an incident with a stolen vehicle last Fall that was driven up the road and then abandoned behind my house after a flat tire. Seems like they quickly realized Siri had given them bad directions. The suspects then stole another vehicle from a neighbor. A new improved road will increase deviant and undesirable traffic.

6. I have not detailed the wildlife concerns and Open space covenant limitations on developing this road as I hold Town Of Avon Council members in high esteem when it comes to logic, intellect and common sense.

Unfortunately, it is human nature to push the boundaries of risk and law as much as possible in wilderness areas. I just don't trust out of town people to do the right thing.

I know I am only one voice out of many, but feel my observations living on the road in question, should count for something.

I would appreciate learning more specifics about proposed improvements. But would ultimately like to not see any improvement done at all.

Colin Meiring
4660 North Point, Avon 81620

From: Caroline Tharp
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 3:34 PM
To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>; Colin Meiring
Subject: Fwd: USFS road 779. More problems

I am adding my bad experiences to Mr. Meiring's.

A few years ago ATVs came over the downed barbed wire fence through my yard and could only extract them selves by winching on my driveway safety fence and breaking it down to the repair bill of \$1000.

Thanks for your continued consideration.

Caroline Tharp

From: Carroll Tyler
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 5:28 PM
To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>
Cc: Colin Meiring
Subject: Wildridge Road 779

I heartedly endorse your letter, Colin and am opposed to opening this road to more traffic. This is fragile terrain, subject to fires and vehicles with no arresters. We cannot have this residential neighborhood subject to more noisy motorcycles and ATV roaring by and up the mountain road.

Carroll Tyler

From: Charley Viola
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 3:06 PM
To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>
Subject: Forest Service Road 779 and Wildridge

To the Avon Town Council:

Please find attached a letter regarding the issue of Forest Service Road 779 and OHV use in the Wildridge neighborhood.

Best regards,
Charley Viola
5720 Wildridge Road East

ATTACHMENT:

Tot the Avon Town Council:

I have lived in Wildridge since 1993 in a several different properties, starting with a townhouse on Old Trail Road and now at our current residence, which is in close proximity to Forest Service Road 779. One of the reasons I moved to here, and continue to live in Wildridge, is the access to Red and White Mountain provided by FR779. I use this road to access the higher elevations via ATV with my dogs to hunt grouse. Using the ATV allows me to get up high enough where the birds are in one third the time it would take with my truck, giving me the ability to get in a short morning hunt prior to going to work. Access from the house to FR779 is very important to my quality of life as I probably access the road well over 30 days per year. We use the road for other purposes as well, but it would appear that the issues seem to be focusing on OHV use in accessing the trail.

Having watched the last town council meeting where this was discussed, it was clear that the greatest concern of one or two council members was the on-street use of non-licensed vehicles on the streets. It is my opinion that this is a red herring. I fully agree that those riding dirt bikes need to adhere to the speed limits and be polite neighbors. Education is the key here and not enforcement. I understand the police are currently taking this approach and fully support the efforts to educate rather than enforce. The issues will not be solved by removing the dirt bikes from the streets. With increased enforcement, the motorcycles riders simply purchase street legal dirt bikes and continue to access the trail. The end result will be only those of us that use ATV's, which cannot be made street legal, will be punished.

Closing the trail also achieves little for the neighborhood. The only result will be shifting the traffic from FR779 to the June Creek access point, increasing the burden on those residents on June Creek Trail. The reality is that all of us bought into Wildridge with these access points being used for many years prior to our arrival. Those that now object to the trail access bought their properties with full knowledge what the use of the trail was at the time of their purchase. The attempt to now shift, or eliminate, access is a severe burden on many to benefit a few.

Quite frankly, this is a tempest in a teapot. I understand that a handful of homeowners adjacent to the trail have created this storm, however, outside those few individuals this is a non-issue. The idea of a sign at the bottom of the road should eliminate the concern about those going up and having to turn around. A sign stating the dates of the gate closure and four wheel drive access only at the bottom should solve that problem. Education of those riding in the neighborhood is important. Informing them that accessing the trails via the roads is a privilege is paramount.

I am a real estate broker in the Valley. As such, I think it is important to recognize how attractive the access to these roads via ATV's and dirt bikes is to those looking at the many options for buying real estate in the valley. Access to these trails gives us a competitive advantage over other neighborhoods in attracting potential Buyers. No other community up valley has the access to trails that Wildridge offers. Especially of late, we see more and more buyers placing an importance on access to the forest. The overwhelming majority of those purchasing in Wildridge recently seem to appreciate this access and are frequent users of FR779 and June Creek via ATV's, UTV's, and dirt bikes.

I appreciate your taking the time to read this long-winded email.

Charley Viola

From: Dave Wilkison
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 7:57 AM
To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>
Subject: forest road 779

Dear Avon Town Council,

My Wife and I purchased our land and built our home at 4495 Wildridge road in 1991. One of the reasons we picked this location was the forest service access for summer and winter. The road first was closed to snowmobiles and now the talk of closing it to summer access takes away one of the main reasons we stay.

I understand the neighbors that don't like the amount of traffic and summer dust. I believe this can be minimized if the road were improved a bit to the BLM boundary and signage with speed limits of 5 MPH
Also if possible limit it by not allowing street parking. Maybe a small lot above the BLM.

If you close this access you put all the access onto June creek with hikers, bikes, vehicle, utv's, dirt bikes, etc.. and all the upper traffic trying to access from above.

I know for some with handicaps that can only access the forest with UTV's and 4 x 4 vehicles feel you are taking away the freedom to access the national forest.

We have been going up and enjoying the national forest with 3 generations of family in this home. If this passes we will be selling and moving out of Wildridge!!

Thanks,

[Dave Wilkison](#)

From: Craig Lathram
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 3:27 PM
To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>
Subject: 779 road access

My name is Craig Lathram and I live full time with my family at 5730 Wildridge Rd. approximately 1/4 mi from the 779 forest service road access. In fact, the proximity to the access was a large factor in the purchase of our home.

After being informed of the concerns with the 779 service road motorized access of an adjacent homeowner, I agree that the issue of the access point(s) (including June Creek) needs to be addressed. The public lands of the National Forest are an amazing resource and we are not only fortunate to live next to them, we are even more fortunate to have open access to enjoy and appreciate what these public lands have to offer. In fact, other municipalities have embraced their community's desire to enjoy these public lands through enhanced access and increased maintenance.

Yes, I'm sure that occasionally less fortunate issues arise around the access point I don't see from ¼ mile away. But, these can be addressed through far less extreme proposals (closure). In fact, I personally find the dust far less than other access points in the Valley given the lower access paving and rocky nature of the trail. Silencers/mufflers are already required on all OHV vehicles and I personally find them generally far quieter than the service vehicles, construction equipment, and Harley's in the neighborhood. And, I would be interested to see data that shows localized OHV travel to the access points has any higher percentage of speeding or accidents than the general public per capita. However, what I find most unfortunate is the person making the complaint who *knowingly* purchased a property adjacent to the existing access has direct connections to the City through an employed family member while promoting the closure of this existing *public* resource for their *personal* gain.

What I would propose in opposition to the current win-lose proposal (closure) is a partnering of vested groups to discuss potential win-win alternatives. It seems no one group has truly taken pride in these gateways, and it would be fortunate if someone did.

Thank you,
Craig Lathram

From: ARTHUR YUAN
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 8:36 AM
To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>
Subject: FSR 779

Avon Council Members,

As homeowners in Wildridge we are strong supporters of maintaining FSR 779 access for OHV. We also desire for it to be open year round. We see activity there almost everyday in the summer months and use the access frequently with our own two OHVs. In fact, most of the activity we notice on this trail is motorized vehicles, because we believe it is a beautiful and challenging climb for all types vehicles.

We purchased our home in the summer of 2017 and one of the reasons was White River National Forest being literally right in our back yard and the proximity to FSR 779 access. Our home, 5792 Wildridge Rd East, is the second home east of the FSR 779 entrance. We can see and hear activity to and from the trail, and it doesn't bother us, we were aware of the trail when we made our decision to buy in The Wildridge Community. Our experiences have been pleasant and courteous with other OHVs on the trail and on our public roads. If there are instances of excessive noise, unsafe or reckless driving of OHVs it must be isolated because we have not seen or heard an instance from our home. We do believe that traveling on public roads to and from FSR entrances (June Creek and FSR 779) should be legal for homeowners, leasers, renters In our community who own OHV's.

We watched the Avon Town Council meeting 9/8 recording and read the Vail Daily News September 9th article on FSR 779. We appreciate the Council member's objectivity for representing all people residing in The Wildridge Community and the support Council Members expressed for maintaining the access from Wildridge Rd East to the FSR 779 entrance as it exists today. We were not aware of a survey for FSR 779 and we did not participate in it. In the future, we would want to participate in any concerns or surveys regarding this subject. However, FSR 779 access is a very important asset for many of us in The Wildridge Community and we have a vested interest in its open access for OHVs.

Sincerely ,

Arthur & Elie Yuan

From: Robert Hintermeister

Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 4:16 PM

To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>

Subject: Wildridge survey Results - 2 comments on traffic safety

Dear Council,

I am writing this email to be read as a comment at the start of tonight's meeting.

I have two comments regarding traffic safety in Wildridge.

- 1) **Motorized access to Forest Service Roads (FSR):** My position is that **motorized access should remain permitted**. I have lived in Wildridge for almost 28 years and use the FSR for active and passive recreation (run, mtn bike, & dirt bike). There is no reason that motorized access cannot co-exist as long as everyone is respectful of the neighborhood getting to and exiting the FSR. It is not appropriate to penalize the majority of drivers who are respectful and follow traffic rules because a few drivers may not comply with traffic safety. I have spoken with many residents who say access to the FSR is one of the reasons they chose to live in Wildridge. It is inappropriate to change the rules because a minority of residents do not want motorized access to something the majority of users do responsibly.
- 2) **Put in speed bumps at the intersection of Old Trail and Wildridge Road at the stop signs.** I live at the intersection of Wildridge Road & Old Trail. The majority of drivers do not come close to a full stop for either of the stop signs: coming down Wildridge Road and from Old Trail. It is more of a problem coming down Wildridge Road. Too often drivers go thru at 15+mph. It is dangerous, especially in winter. A low cost, low maintenance and 24/7 solution to this safety hazard is to install a significant speed bump at each stop line. No police presence necessary!

Thanks for considering these suggestions,

Bob

Robert Hintermeister, PhD

From: Craig Lathram
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 8:35 AM
To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>
Subject: Council meeting 092220

Hello,

I just wanted to let the Council know for the record that I attended the meeting last night by phone (303-***-****) in support of keeping the 779 Road access open. I also appreciate the recusal of the City Attorney in recognition of the potential conflict of interest regarding his parent's adjacent property.

Thank you,

Craig Lathram

From: Rick Smith
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 9:04 AM
To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>
Subject: Closing Access to 779

Thanks for listening and your consideration. Rick Smith

LETTER ATTACHED:

**Rick Smith
P.O. Box 797
Avon Colorado 81620**

September 29, 2020

Dear Avon Town Council,

My name is Rick Smith, I reside at 5796 Wildridge Road East. My family and I have lived at this address for 20 years and I have never felt compelled to write the Town Council, however, the potential for you to close access to 779 for off road vehicles has changed that.

We live just east of the access and know from observation and talking to many of our neighbors this would be a terrible move. Many of our neighbors, including ourselves enjoy dirt biking and using our Razor to access 779, that's why many of us moved here. Motorized and foot access to the forest, in our neighborhood, is one of the pleasures we all enjoy, and I think it would be a travesty to allow a small vocal minority to deny motorized access. Motorized vehicles also provide access to the forest to those who are not physically able to hike the very steep access road, which should be an important consideration for the Council. We must help to accommodate those among us who are not physically able. When this vocal minority decide to purchase a home in Wildridge, they knew access to motorized vehicles was part of the deal and they decided to move forward and buy, caveat emptor.

Additionally, any complaints of loud noise and speeding from UTVs is greatly exaggerated. Sure, there is the occasional person who might exceed the speed limit, but it is very small minority. We would not be opposed to posting of a speed limit sign, also some minor maintenance would mitigate most of the dust, which I also understand if part of this group's complaint.

When a government entity considers eliminating a citizenry's cherished gift (which "full" access to the forest certainly is) it really needs to seriously consider the impact and consequences, and when you do, one can only conclude this move would be seen has a significant take away.

Thank you for listening. I don't think many understand the significant time and effort you put in being a Town Council member. It is considerable and appreciated.

Sincerely,
Rick Smith

From: Caitlin Rapson

Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2020 9:48 AM

To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>; devon decrausaz

Subject: Wildridge access

Hello thank you for reaching out! I am very much opposed to shutting down access to the trails in any way! I believe it is what makes the mountains the mountains! Easy access! If they don't want the noise they can move! As far as the OHV vehicles on the road we use the roads to get into the mountains! Every rider I have seen up in the community has been following the rules of the road, driving responsibly, and make sure to keep distance from other cars or people using the recreational paths!

Thanks,

Caitlin Rapson

From: Dee Wisor
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 8:04 AM
To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>
Cc: Eric Heil <eheil@avon.org>
Subject: USFS Road 779

Mayor and members of Council:

At last night's meeting, Council member Thoun mentioned snowmobile access on 779.

I want to note that the closure of 779 to motorized access in winter is in place to protect the deer and elk that winter north of Wildridge, This, like other closures in Avon and the Valley more generally, puts less stress on the wintering herd which increases winter survival and reduces impacts on the number of fawns and calves including mortality and low birth weight. I volunteer as a Trail Ambassador with Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance. VVMTA runs the Trail Ambassador program in an effort to mitigate our declining wildlife population by educating and informing trail users as to why seasonal closures exist.

Also, please remember that the Wildridge Community survey reflects that 43% of respondents supported **no** motorized use of 779 while 32% supported motorized use. The survey responses support maintaining Road 779 for recreation uses, but only a third of respondents support continued motorized vehicle use. It is also of note that a substantial number of renters support motorized vehicle use, however, a near majority of property owners who are either full or part time residents are opposed to continued motorized vehicle use.

For the benefit of Council members Andrade and Hardy, I am setting forth below my contact information two communications that I sent to Council last year.

Thanks for reading.

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Dee Wisor
4730 Wildridge Rd. E
Unit B
PO Box 9737
Avon, CO. 81620

From: Dave Wilkison
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 9:13 AM
To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>
Subject: motorized access om Wildridge

Council,

We use the Avon roads to get from our house to the public lands all the time. 779 & 7171b

This is part of why we selected the Wildridge neighborhood way back in 1990.

The forest service has already shut down snowmobiling.

You have a large number of us that live in Wildridge that do so for the outdoor access and shutting it down is wrong.

I started using the roads with my parents then my kids and now my grandkids.

We I urge you to consider a way to keep these trails open for all to enjoy.

Thanks,

[Dave Wilkison](#)

From: Colin Meiring

Date: February 1, 2021 at 2:35:36 PM MST

To: Sarah Smith Hymes <shymes@avon.org>, Scott Prince <sprince@avon.org>, Amy Phillips <aphillips@avon.org>, Chico Thuon <cthuon@avon.org>, Tamra Underwood <tunderwood@avon.org>, Lindsay Hardy <lhardy@avon.org>, Russell Andrade <randrade@avon.org>

Subject: USFS 779 winter access and improvements

Dear Avon Council

This is my 2nd letter in opposition to improvements and Winter access to USFS 779.

My 4660 North Point property backs up to this access road.

The forest service gate is thankfully closed this winter, but there has still been snowmobile activity on the road, through my property and damage to my neighbors driveway guardrail from snowmobile trespassing.

Unfortunately, it always takes just a few to ruin the opinion for all.

I received an email fro Dee Wisor, my East neighbor. The e mail is attached below.

There seems to be a strong opinion and a specific group advocating for improvements to the road and winter snowmobile access.

Below are my concerns:

1. More use will mean more traffic in Wildridge.
2. More traffic means more speeding which will impact pedestrians, cyclists, children, and animals.(I already witness high speed traffic through the North Point /Wildridge STOP sign intersection, daily. most cars don't even pretend to slow down)
3. Street parking will also impact pedestrians, cyclists, children, and animals who walk or ride on Wildridge Road.
4. There will be adverse impacts on wildlife. My personal observation, having lived in this location since 2013, is that I am seeing fewer deer and have not seen an elk in Wildridge for two years.
5. There will be more noise, particularly from snowmobiles, ATVs and dirt bikes.

I urge you to please collaborate with the US forest service and try conduct a wildlife impact statement before allowing indiscriminate year round vehicle usage on this road.

Thank you for your time, energy and service to our community.

Colin

From: NLB Horton

Date: February 8, 2021 at 11:05:03 AM MST

To: Sarah Smith Hymes <shymes@avon.org>, Scott Prince <sprince@avon.org>, Amy Phillips <aphillips@avon.org>, Chico Thuon <cthuon@avon.org>, Tamra Underwood <tunderwood@avon.org>, Lindsay Hardy <lhardy@avon.org>, Russell Andrade <randrade@avon.org>

Subject: Access Road 779—no snowmobiling!

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

I'm writing to express concern that you're still considering opening Road 779 for snowmobile access. Although you do some wonderful work, such as the (fabulous) landscaping in the roundabouts, you're missing the point about snowmobiling in the neighborhood that I've enjoyed so much for the past decade-plus.

Most of your constituents live here for the privacy and quiet, two assets that will evaporate with the introduction of snowmobiles. There are so many places to snowmobile in this valley, why contaminate the only pristine neighborhood, and arguably, the only *truly traditional* neighborhood, in Avon? Even though snowmobile access might serve a few people—a house right next to the access road has a trailer full of snowmobiles, so it would be great for them— you're polluting the lifestyle of the many (and threatening our diminishing wildlife) who'll have to listen to these machines. When my husband and I want to snowmobile, we go to the Pass, where we're not interrupting the lives of anyone.

Secondly, we already have trespassing issues with some of the dirt bikers. (I back up to June Creek, and they try to cut through our yard. With Walking Mountains taking down the fences last spring I anticipate even more trespassing problems this summer.) Some of these same guys (sorry, but I have yet to see a female doing this) don't obey traffic laws and drive with reckless abandon. Why open our neighborhood to the winter equivalent of these entitled, dangerous dirt-biking yahoos who give responsible dirt-bikers a bad name? Open the gate, and you know that they'll come.

Lastly, I walk the loop several days a week, and between bicyclists and dirt-bikers, even the pedestrian lane can be dangerous because people are texting while driving, cutting across the lines, speeding. Why add snowmobilers to the list of threats to pedestrians—all of whom live in this neighborhood and pay property taxes to support the town?

Please don't open 779 to snowmobiles.

Norma Horton

From: Tab Bonidy
Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 1:47 PM
To: Council Everyone Group <council@avon.org>
Cc: Devon DeCrausaz
Subject: Forest Service Road 779 and 717.1B

Councilmen and Councilwomen:

Please understand the importance of these two roads and all of the rest of the roads above the Wildridge neighborhood including 734.1, 700.1, 701.1 and 433.1 are to the residents of the Wildridge community as well as half of Eagle County. These roads have been a source of recreation on four-wheelers, motorcycles, mountain bikes and snowmobiles for years. They provide access to all people including those that are disabled and unable to hike. The Forest Service is out of control in their quest to close these roads. These are OUR ROADS as citizens of this great Country and this community and provide access to the National Forest, OUR FOREST. Please do everything in your power to keep the Forest Service in check and under control to prevent these closures during ALL seasons. Thank you.

Tab Bonidy

331 Nottingham Road #7B

Avon, CO 81620

Attachments: none