



A plea for potholes

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Our wilderness areas are getting loved to death in summer, the ski resorts sporting record-breaking crowds during winter.

And we're supposed to make getting to the mountains from Denver easier? Have we thought this out fully? What happens to the ski resorts and wilderness areas if I-70 is "fixed" to speed more traffic our way?

How many more day skiers from the Front Range does Vail need? How many more hikers, hunters, car campers, backpackers, bike riders, fishermen and other visitors can the Holy Cross and Eagle's Nest wildernesses and other parts of the White River National Forest take?

For Eagle County and the White River forest's sake, the I-70 coalition should be planning more potholes from, say, Copper Mountain west.

After all, Vail and Beaver Creek's best customers fly in to Eagle, or should. And the Forest Service, chronically short of funding to handle the crowds that already make their way up here, isn't exactly in great position to manage an even greater load.

Maybe the problems that lawmakers and earnest coalitions seek to solve will create greater ones if they are too successful.

Maybe the mountains are supposed to be hard to reach.

This sentiment cuts against the grain of what passes for conventional wisdom about transportation between here and Denver.

But it deserves a place at the table — right up there with more lanes, trains and other expensive schemes to ease traffic congestion that occurs primarily during certain weekends. Maybe this problem in truth is a blessing.

D.R.

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