Berlaimont Estates proposed paved access road
Press sheet

Letters / Op-eds

“Road to Berlaimont Estates would pave paradise for sprawl in the backcountry”
Peter Hart; Vail Daily; March 1, 2018
Quote: “Berlaimont Estates is not reasonable land use. It is ludicrous backcountry sprawl. The proposed access road isn't a little driveway. It is a 32-foot wide, bermed, walled, plowed and paved thoroughfare switchbacking thousands of feet up a very visible hillside to provide year-round access to "estates" deep within the National Forest. According to the Forest Service's analysis, the walls necessary to support this road could be more than 1,000 feet long and as tall as 40 feet.”

“Proposed access road for Berlaimont Estates is déjà vu all over again”
Richard Carnes; Vail Daily; March 5, 2018
Quote: “And now we have yet another development group from Florida (more on that in a minute) wanting to pave over the access to their 680 acres so their potential 19 gated-community homeowners don't have to get their Land Rovers dirty for the few weeks they're here each year.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/carnes-proposed-access-road-for-berlaimont-estates-is-deja-vu-all-over-again-column

“’Paradise’ and the ‘Berlaimont Estates’ is actually Berry Creek Road”
Bill Wezwick; Vail Daily; March 7, 2018
Quote: “Locals, you need to know that "Paradise" and the "Berlaimont Estates" refers to what we all know as Berry Creek. This trail that so many of us love to hike, bike and walk our dogs on public lands is being considered to be paved for 5-plus miles to improve access for 19 proposed "estates" completely surrounded by National Forest.”

“Wildlife Habitat in Eagle County is Disappearing and Berlaimont Road Project Will Make it Worse”
Doss Malone; Vail Daily; August 27, 2018
Quote: “Surveys in Colorado and Eagle County show increasing concern over lost open space and wildlife habitat. Eagle County residents have slowly been coming to grips with the fact that our very existence and the growth that powers the county's economic engine are destroying the natural order we all love. Colorado Parks and Wildlife regularly reminds us of the catastrophic hit to the local wildlife ecosystem that habitat fragmentation is causing.”

“Wilderness Workshop: Berlaimont is a boondoggle, not a done deal; voice your opinion”
Andy Wiessner; Vail Daily; August 31, 2018
Quote: “Their proposal would adversely impact several thousands of acres of surrounding National Forest land that the White River Forest Plan lists for category "5.41: Deer and Elk Winter Range" management. Thus far, the Forest Service has received roughly 650 public comments on Berlaimont and has told Wilderness Workshop that 90 percent to 95 percent of them oppose the project.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/wilderness-workshop-berlaimont-is-a-boondoggle-not-a-done-deal-voice-your-opinion-column/
“Don’t be appeased by recreation access on Berlaimont project”
Anni Davis; Vail Daily; September 14, 2018

Quote: “Recently, the Forest Service introduced new "mitigation measures" to its Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which include adding 2.7 miles of additional multiple-use trail and a new snowmobile parking lot the size of half a football field. The Forest Service says these measures may reduce the impacts that the Berlaimont project and accompanying access road would have on deer, elk and other sensitive wildlife. However, no new analysis of these measures has been provided, and the public has not been offered a meaningful opportunity to comment.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/dont-be-appeased-by-recreation-access-on-berlaimont-project-letter/

“Do we truly value wildlife or just the appearance of being in the wild?”
Cora Sperry McCoy; Vail Daily; September 23, 2018

Quote: “Those of us who live and work in this valley, especially in the service industry, know just how many vehicles and personnel will be continuously traveling back and forth to these homes: landscapers, housekeepers, property managers, electricians, pool and hot-tub service technicians, roofers, pest-control technicians (because we all know that as soon as these houses are built much of the wildlife on site will become pests to be poisoned, trapped and removed from the properties), the list goes on.”

“The future of our local wildlife is up to us; just say ‘no’ to paved access to Berlaimont”
Jacci McKenna; Vail Daily; September 18, 2018

Quote: “Colorado Division of Wildlife data reflect a 50 percent reduction in the number of elk in Eagle County since 2007. This is due to human impacts including loss of winter habitat primarily from development, habitat fragmentation and effects from increasing recreation. Isn't it our responsibility to stop the bleeding?”

“Concerns about Berlaimont Estates”
Doss Malone; Vail Daily; November 22, 2018

Quote: “Summer use and enjoyment would be logical because that is the historic, relatively benign state of the land that existed, outside of normal land use policy, as the valley developed over the years. Adding additional stress to already struggling elk and deer herds that depend on surrounding Forest Service land for winter survival would be irresponsible. Creating new roads and pavement on public land is the last thing our increasingly fragmented ecosystem needs.”

“Don’t pave the Berry Creek Road to provide access to Berlaimont development”
Mike Allen; Vail Daily; November 30, 2018

Quote: “How does he define sustainability? Sustainability of the development for human habitat by punching 4.5 miles of pavement plus the development road into what is now mostly for recreational and pristine wildlife habitat? You also don't promote sustainability by opening roads that are closed in winter to protect prime elk and deer winter range. Plus, they don't have sustainability by building multi-million-dollar mansions 2,000 feet above the valley floor.”
“It’s not the Forest Service’s job to bail out the Berlaimont developers”
Howard Levitt; Vail Daily; December 1, 2018

**Quote:** “The Forest Service’s mission is to protect our wildlife and the scenic splendor of our National Forest land. You do not do that by paving it! The many people who use the Berry Creek and Power Line roads now for hunting, hiking, biking, walking their dogs and other recreation do not want to see it turned into pavement, with the huge year-round increases in traffic and human use it will bring.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/it-is-not-the-forest-services-job-to-bail-out-the-berlaimont-developers-letter/

“Time for US Forest Service officials to say ‘no’ to Berlaimont Estates road project”
Anne Esson; Vail Daily; December 7, 2018

**Quote:** “These generally south-facing slopes of the national forest are also described by Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials as critical winter habitat for our already stressed and declining deer and elk herds. **On Tuesday, Oct. 16**, recently retired CPW officer Bill Andree updated for Vail Town Council survey data on herd decline and commented that the elk herd north of I-70 is now severely affected, as well as the one on the south.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/time-for-u-s-forest-service-officials-to-say-no-to-berlaimont-estates-road-project-letter/

“Remember Wilderness Workshop on your giving list this holiday season”
Diana Donovan; Vail Daily; December 12, 2018

**Quote:** “Right now, they are pushing back against a proposed paved boulevard to the proposed Berlaimont Estates, which will cut across 4.5 miles of our National Forest above Singletree to build a private enclave for a few, while wiping out more large-animal habitat and, by extension, deer and elk herds. This proposed development already has access, but they want a boulevard, and more land for estates, to be provided by our public lands.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/remember-wilderness-workshop-on-your-giving-list-this-holiday-season-letter/

“Out View: When it comes to proposed Berlaimont Estates, ‘popular’ and ‘legal’ are often different things”
Vail Daily Ed Board – Editorial; December 18, 2018

**Quote:** “But "popular" and "legal" are often different things. Whatever happens regarding the road into Berlaimont, the people in the offices in Minturn and Glenwood Springs will be following the law to the best of their abilities, regardless of public sentiment. That's what good adjudicators do, and it's worthy of respect.”

“Vail Daily editorial on Berlaimont Estates plan missed the mark”
Peter Hart; Vail Daily; December 28, 2018

**Quote:** “The Daily's editorial falls flat in its implication that the law is on the Forest Service's side here. The editorial provides no support for this — none. For readers who care to engage on a deeper level and ascertain for themselves the legality of the agency's position, please read comments we filed discussing the applicability of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 3103-3233, the reasonableness of the proposed development, and the adequacy of access.”
“Edwards’ Berlaimont Estates plan doesn’t need a paved road”
Andy Wiessner; Vail Daily; January 2, 2019
Quote: “That language clearly gives the Forest Service wide discretion as to what type of access to grant. It "deems" what's "adequate" access, not Berlaimont. Moreover, the Forest Service's 35CFR251 regulations that accompany ANILCA require that any access granted must "minimize" damage to wildlife and other values of the surrounding national forest land. That is why Wilderness Workshop believes the Forest Service has full authority to tell Berlaimont that the existing dirt roads and winter road closures are "adequate" access. After all, those are the conditions under which Berlaimont knowingly bought its land.”

“Don’t give Berlaimont developers a pass”
Dick Brooks; Vail Daily; January 11, 2019
Quote: “To the Eagle County Commissioners and Governor Polis: The Forest service analysis and proposed action selecting Alternative 3 is nothing more than giving the developers whatever they want to make their proposed development as profitable as possible and their expenses as low as possible. Alternative 3 does this by using additional public land to provide less-costly access to an undefined group of potential 35 acre lots. This leaves the land pristine for developers, increasing both their acreage and the value of that acreage. This makes the land far more valuable because most of the access is provided by building all the road platforms, retaining walls and a couple million yards of excavation on public land.”

“A letter to the Eagle County Commissioners about Berlaimont”
Howard Levitt; Vail Daily; January 15, 2019
Quote: “The spirit of ANILCA was intended to provide access to those wanting to enjoy the use of their property within federally held lands, not to enable them to turn a profit at the expense of the wildlife, whose well-being and viability fall under the purview of the agency as spelled out in their own mission statement. The developer, knowing full well that the parcel in question already had an adequate dirt road to access the property, speculated that he could turn a profit by leveraging ANILCA to his benefit.”

“Wilderness designation is important”
Alan Danson; Vail Daily; March 2, 2019
Quote: “Wilderness designation can also protect lands from government decisions that seem ill-advised. For example, if the critical elk and deer winter range above Edwards were eligible for Wilderness designation, the U.S. Forest Service would not be allowed to consider — as it is now doing — the 4.5 miles of paved, all-season road that developer Berlaimont is proposing in the area. While we all certainly hope the Forest Service will protect the public interest by rejecting Berlaimont's application and keeping the area closed to motorized use in the winter, the case illustrates why the type of protection that is afforded by permanent Wilderness designation is so important for our beautiful valley.”
“For our valley wildlife, a steep price to pay”
Anne Esson; Vail Daily; March 8, 2019

**Quote:** “To extirpate, according to the dictionary: to root out and destroy completely; synonyms: eradicate, eliminate, wipe out. Not a word one expected to hear from wildlife biologists at Vail’s second annual Wildlife Forum on Wednesday at Donovan Pavilion. But it was a word used, more than once, to describe threats to our Eagle County elk, deer and bighorn sheep herds. Human intrusion into critical animal habitats, whether by recreationists or development, have reduced deer and elk populations to numbers where their very presence here is threatened. Elk herds both north and south of Interstate 70 are now counted in the tens where as recently as 15 years ago numbers were well over 1,000.”

“We are at a wildlife crossroads”
Jacci McKenna; Vail Daily; March 14, 2019

**Quote:** “As citizens, we are at crossroads — do we want to lose the very wildlife many of us moved here to enjoy or are we going to take action to stop this crisis? Decision-makers need to hear from us. They are here to represent our interests and they need to know what our priorities are. Contact your representatives today to let them know you want wildlife to thrive again in Eagle County. Give wildlife a voice.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-we-are-at-a-wildlife-crossroads/

“Berlaimont development will be bad for wildlife”
Christian Shanley; Vail Daily; March 17, 2019

**Quote:** “Beyond the impact this development would have to our local animals, I can only imagine this would lead to reduced access to hiking and biking. I have been using the Berry Creek and June Creek areas for biking, hiking, four-wheeling and general shenanigans for as long as I can remember. This proposed paved road would take you right to the start of the popular Endo Alley bike trail. Now I don’t think riding up a paved road (if it would even still be allowed) to Endo Alley would be all that fun.”

“Draw the line on Berlaimont”
Cathy Blaser; Vail Daily; March 23, 2019

**Quote:** “Since the 1930s, access to the inholding that is now referred to as Berlaimont has been reasonable, just as has access to Fulford and Piney River Ranch. Both Fulford and Piney River Ranch are accessible by dirt roads in the summer and fall, and snowmobiles in the winter. They have homes and cabins and owners access them at will. Now we are suddenly faced with an outside investor who wants to develop the Berlaimont inholding not for his own use but as a way to rake in millions on nearly 20 mansions in a gated community.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-draw-the-line-on-berlaimont/

“No to Berlaimont”
Corkie Ramey; Vail Daily; March 25, 2019

**Quote:** “Another aspect is without calf production, how can we maintain or grow a herd. Migration patterns would be lost as the calf learns from the mother where to go. According to scientist Brett Jesmer of the University of Wyoming, if a migration corridor is blocked or changed, or seasonal habitat no longer exists, it can take generations to establish a new path. If we lose calves, there will be no transmission of social knowledge. Our elk seasonal ranges will be lost.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-no-to-berlaimont/
“No to Berlaimont”
Kevin Hochtl; Vail Daily; April 5, 2019
Quote: “The Berlaimont developers claim they have a right to a paved road, based on a law that requires the US Forest Service to provide “adequate access” to inholders, for the “reasonable use and enjoyment” of their property. Nothing in the law says the Forest Service is required to approve paved access, and indeed, no existing precedent exists for supporting paved access currently exists.”

“It’s our responsibility to take care of the elk”
Lisa Delafield; Vail Daily; April 5, 2019
Quote: “Obviously, Don Donnalley did not read the story or reports in the Vail paper of the decline in our elk population. Anyone who lives in the mountains and attempts to chase away elk by yelling at them or threatening them really should move back to the big city.”

“Stick to your mission, Forest Service”
Maria Minick; Vail Daily; April 10, 2019
Quote: “I have written before and, like a broken record, here I am again. US Forest Service, please think fairly and responsibly and clearly when it comes to the proposal of a paved road to the Berlaimont Estates. It is not the Forest Service’s job, nor responsibility, to enable millions of dollars in speculative development ventures within national forests. The Forest Service is only required to provide “adequate access” roads for “reasonable use and enjoyment” of in-holders (as many others and I have pointed out previously).”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-stick-to-your-mission-forest-service/

“Let’s protect our wild neighbors, not destroy them”
Chelsea Congdon Brundige; Vail Daily; April 18, 2019
Quote: “If the paved road is approved, deer and elk will suffer fatalities, the habitat will be fragmented and development will threaten rare plant species and adversely impact water resources in the Eagle River Valley. Increased traffic would also harm the popular hiking and biking experience on the Berry Creek Road.”

“Pull the plug on Berlaimont proposal already”
Maria Minick; Vail Daily; May 31, 2019
Quote: “Fitzwilliams says “the law is not particularly clear and words like “adequate” and “reasonable use” are not definitive.” I find them clear, but Mr. Fitzwilliams’ uncertainty is all the more reason for him to study Berlaimont further, and not base the decision on an issue specific to Alaska.”

“The Land Trust on Berlaimont and East Vail”
Jim Daus, Executive Director, Adriana Bombard, Board President; Vail Daily; June 7, 2019
Quote: “For example, EVLT submitted comments on the Berlaimont Estates draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) expressing a preference for the conservation of this property while respecting the landowner’s rights. The letter also set forth specific concerns regarding threats to vulnerable wildlife populations, damage to scenic viewsheds and watersheds, and damage to wildlife habitat. EVLT continues to request that the owners of the Berlamont parcel consider selling the property for open space or protect it via conservation easement or other means.”
“When does common sense come into play with Berlaimont?”
Tim Wolf; Vail Daily; June 9, 2019
Quote: “The Forest Service has acknowledged the mistakes of past private development in sensitive wildlife areas, which have had lasting negative effects. The Forest Service has stated controlled prescribed fires are badly needed to attract and sustain our herds again in select areas, get the local residents engaged in volunteer efforts concerning our wildlife habitat. Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers have repeatedly stated predator populations also need to be addressed. Knowing the current issues facing wildlife, when does the heart and soul of common sense come into play?”

“Berlaimont proposal is a bad idea all around”
Steve MacCleary; Vail Daily; June 13, 2019
Quote: “This project is also bad for our dwindling elk population. The project engulfs a prime piece of habitat and will lead to the lowering numbers of our elk herds. This piece of habitat is public land, not private. Why would we destroy something so grand, so just a few more second homeowners come to town?”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-berlaimont-proposal-is-a-bad-idea-all-around/

“Just say no to Berlaimont”
Pat Parrish; Vail Daily; June 14, 2019
Quote: “These developers should have been told up front (maybe they were) that they cannot just cut a road through an area that will endanger or disrupt the existence of deer and elk in order to access the multimillion-dollar homes they plan to build. This is Forest Service land. My land. Period.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-just-say-no-to-berlaimont/

“We’ve got to draw the line at Berlaimont”
Howard Leavitt; Vail Daily; June 17, 2019
Quote: “While the Forest Service is required to grant access to private inholdings for reasonable use and enjoyment, it is not required to approve a 26-foot wide asphalt road when the current road readily suffices for adequate access. It is not incumbent upon the agency, and the public it represents, to help bolster and ensure the value of a speculative investment.”

“Let’s not pave paradise”
Jacci McKenna; Vail Daily; June 19, 2019
Quote: “Berlaimont: a four-mile two-lane paved access road requested by a developer through our White River National Forest across a highly-used recreational area containing critical winter range for elk and deer threatening populations that have already declined 50% in the past 10 years to serve 19 high-end homes.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-let-s-not-pave-paradise/

“Donovan, Roberts on Berlaimont”
Quote: “In our assessment, the Berlaimont Estates access road proposal is unreasonable on many levels. We believe adequate access already exists to the parcel. We also feel it is important to write you as a common voice to reflect the real and widespread concerns of the people we represent. The desires of a single developer should not outweigh the voice of the community and the long term stewardship responsibility of the USFS for our shared public lands.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-donovan-roberts-on-berlaimont/
“Bennet, Neguse, Polis on Berlaimont”
Quote: “It is imperative that the Forest Service fully consider this local input and the valid concerns Sen. Donovan and Rep. Roberts raised, which suggest that the proposal may not be reasonable. We appreciate your attention on this matter.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-bennet-neguse-polis-on-berlaimont/

“Forest Service should lead by example”
Anni Davis; Vail Daily; July 2, 2019
Quote: “I applaud the Forest Service for extending the seasonal closures in these important habitats and for asking the public to help out the wildlife by respecting said closures. I’d also like to challenge the Forest Service to lead by example as good stewards of their own seasonal closures in places like Berry Creek, where the paved Berlaimont Estates access road is proposed to cut straight across public land and critical wildlife habitat, for which the Forest Service is considering allowing year-round vehicle access. To allow year-round access, the Forest Service would have to abandon its own Forest Management plan for the area, where seasonal closures are currently in place.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-forest-service-should-lead-by-example/

“Forest Service’s reasoning makes no sense”
Rick Spitzer; Vail Daily; July 3, 2019
Quote: “Meanwhile, the owners of Berlaimont Estates, a proposed 680-acre parcel of private property, an inholding, surrounded by U.S. Forest Service lands, located north of Edwards and west of the Berry Creek drainage want the U.S. Forest Service to approve a new 32-foot-wide, two-lane paved road across 4.2 miles of public lands to facilitate development of 19 new mansions on 35 acre plots. Here the Forest Service is considering allowing a connection to an area that has not yet been developed, even though it is in an area that was designated in a 2002 Forest Service Plan as an area of critical winter range for deer and elk.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-forest-services-reasoning-makes-no-sense/

“An open letter to Forest Service to stop Berlaimont”
Cathy Blaser; Vail Daily; July 12, 2019
Quote: “I have heard arguments that say according to Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act designation that the road must be approved. I’m not a lawyer, but I know enough of the law and legal argument to know that scholars will argue in court over the interpretation of a word. The meaning of “reasonable” access, if argued from the perspective of the status quo, the rights of the public ownership of the land and the needs of the wildlife to live on the land, could easily mean maintaining the dirt/gravel road access and denying the building of a topped road for the exclusive inholding development.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-an-open-letter-to-forest-service-to-stop-berlaimont/

“Mayville: Let’s talk about Berlaimont”
Aaron Mayville; Vail Daily; July 20, 2019
Quote: “As a resident of Eagle County myself, I understand the community’s concerns about the Berlaimont project. Our charge as public land managers is to follow the laws, regulations, and policies that have shaped Forest Service management for over a century. I can assure you that we are trying our best to do just that.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/mayville-lets-talk-about-berlaimont/

“Berlaimont developer has a right to access road”
Scott Cliver; Vail Daily; August 9, 2019
Quote: “The property owner has rights — please do not let radical people crush the dreams of a property owner.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-berlaimont-developer-has-a-right-to-access-road/
“Wilderness Workshop: Wildfire risk, cost make Berlaimont unreasonable”
Peter Hart; Vail Daily; August 13, 2019
Quote: “The most ludicrous aspects may relate to wildfire. Berlaimont Estates will put people and expensive infrastructure in a fire-prone landscape that is far from first responders.”

“Where is Berlaimont going to get all that water?”
Cathy Blaser; Vail Daily; August 16, 2019
Quote: “Google tells me that the average home of four people uses 400 gallons of water a day. With 19 homes, not even counting secondary residences that would be three trucks a day carrying 2,500 gallons each, 365 days a year.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-where-is-berlaimont-going-to-get-all-that-water/

“Protect wildlife or build a zoo”
Martha Milbery; Vail Daily; September 27, 2019
Quote: “If Berlaimont is approved, it will set a dangerous precedent. Do we need a zoo for the last remnants of wildlife, or can we turn toward conservation? What legacy do we want to leave our children and grandchildren? Saturday, Sept. 28 is National Public Lands Day. Eagle County citizens are blessed to be stewards of immense public lands. These lands and the ecology they support is the basis of our economy, and some would say spiritual economy.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-protect-wildlife-or-build-a-zoo/

“Please, help us protect our herds”
(Letter originally addressed to Dan Gibbs, executive director of the Colorado Dept. of Natural Resources)
Howard Leavitt; Vail Daily; October 11, 2019
Quote: “I hope that you can wield whatever influence you might have to impact a decision by the U.S. Forest Service on whether to allow a luxury home developer — with an inholding called Berlaimont — to build over 4 miles of two-lane paved road, smack-dab through the middle of what is now designated as critical winter range for deer and elk, as well as other sensitive species, including sage grouse and lynx.”

“Vail doesn’t need no stinking wildlife”
Joe Shankland; Vail Daily; October 19, 2019
Quote: “I don’t know what all the fuss is over protecting the animals or land in the Vail Valley. Vail doesn’t need bighorn sheep or elk, moose, mountain lions or bears — those animals are reserved for other resort communities like Jackson, Aspen or Telluride. I say if there’s a piece of land that we can build something on, build it, build it, build it. I mean, really, why would we want open space — other than to protect the animals (they aren’t providing any revenue) and car-free roads? That’s just unAmerican.”

“We can all be part of the solution for sustaining wildlife”
Gene Byrne; Vail Daily; October 27, 2019
Quote: “Everyone who lives, visits, works or plays in the valley is part of this problem and could also be part of the solution to preserve the remnant wildlife populations and hopefully make them sustainable for the future. The Booth Heights development was certainly an issue for the bighorn sheep that depend on the Booth Creek winter range. The larger problem is the mostly unmitigated, cumulative impacts that have resulted in the massive development from the foot of Vail Pass to Squaw Creek, an almost continuous development that stretches over 17 miles.”
“Berlaimont Estates road is a path to ruin”
Marlene Maurer; Vail Daily; November 2, 2019
**Quote:** “Colorado Parks and Wildlife has a statutory responsibility to manage all wildlife species in Colorado. The review of the project confirms there will be direct impacts to deer and elk winter range and migration habitats and corridors.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-berlaimont-estates-road-is-a-path-to-ruin/

“Threat of Berlaimont road still looms”
Tim Wolf; Vail Daily; January 15, 2020
**Quote:** “And let’s not forget early last year, the Vail Daily reported that more than 2,000 petition signatures opposing Berlaimont had been delivered to the Forest Service. Now, having collected hundreds of more signatures at local fairs this past summer, we’re just 86 signatures away from reaching 4,000!”

“Forest Service needs to draw the line on Berlaimont”
Howard Leavitt and Bill Andree; May 8, 2020
**Quote:** “We presented Mr. Fitzwilliams with an additional 1,775 petition signatures from local residents who are vehemently opposed to the access road as proposed, due to its known wildlife and environmental impacts. These new signatures bring the total number of signers to over 4,200.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/opinion/letter-forest-service-needs-to-draw-the-line-on-berlaimont/

**Articles**

‘Edwards Overlook’ to get a tough look-over
Vail Daily; May 24, 2002
**Quote:** “Indeed, the area in question is part of the migration corridor used by a 6,000 head of mule deer – the state’s second-largest deer herd – on their spring and fall treks to and from the High Country.”

New ‘Edwards Overlook’ in the works
Vail Daily; March 21, 2005
**Quote:** “Three summers ago a group of developers attempted to build a similar project, but ran into stiff opposition to the project from Edwards residents, and also discovered they would need an 18-month to 24-month-long – and expensive -environmental review before the Forest Service would consider allowing the road. They subsequently backed out of the purchase.”

Hard-to-develop Edwards land went for $9.5M
Vail Daily; February 5, 2009
**Quote:** “A Florida-based investment company paid $9.5 million last year for a 680-acre piece of land north of Edwards, Colorado and has told the Forest Service it plans to do what a handful of other owners haven’t ” develop the land.”

Eagle County examines road concerns related to Berlaimont Estates proposal
Vail Daily; October 3, 2013
**Quote:** “According to Ben Gerdes, of the Eagle County Planning Department, the variance problems regarding Berlaimont involves the county's dual access, emergency turnaround and road design provisions. The developers have proposed a single access road and various mitigations regarding emergency services.”
More than 700 comments submitted regarding Berlaimont Estates access plan: decision to be made in the fall; Vail Daily; April 18, 2018

**Quote:** “But the location of the property has launched a public process through the U.S. Forest Service. Because Berlaimont is an in-holding, the developers must build an access road through Forest Service land. The road development requires an environmental impact statement from the Forest Service, as well as a formal determination regarding whether the proposed 19-unit residential area is a "reasonable" use.”


Where has all the wildlife gone: CPW officials cite 50 percent drop in Eagle Valley’s elk population; Vail Daily; June 16, 2018

**Quote:** “Imagine if, over a 10-year period, half of Eagle County’s human population disappeared. We would be using the terms ‘drastic’, ‘alarming’ and maybe even ‘catastrophic’ to describe the situation. During the past decade, that exact scenario has played out for one group of county residents. Today’s elk population in the area — from Vail Pass to Glenwood Canyon — is 50 percent lower than it was in 2007. This precipitous drop has personnel from Colorado Parks and Wildlife concerned.”


New Berlaimont Estates recreation proposals will be vetted at meeting Wednesday, Aug. 15

Vail Daily; August, 14, 2018

**Quote:** “The informational meeting will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Holy Cross Ranger Station located at 24747 U.S. Highway 24 in Minturn. Forest Service and town of Avon staff will be available to answer questions. The purpose of this meeting will be to introduce new changes to the proposed Berlaimont Estates Road Improvement Project. These changes are a result of the most recent public comment period and focus on mitigation of wildlife and recreation impacts.”


More than 2,400 petition signatures oppose Berlaimont plan north of Edwards; article

Vail Daily; December 15, 2018

**Quote:** “According to White River National Forest Supervisor Scott Fitzwilliams, there's a very visual reminder about public sentiment regarding the Berlaimont proposal sitting smack dab on the middle of his desk — a petition opposing the project that includes more than 2,400 signatures.”


Year in Review: Vail Valley’s highs, lows, and in-betweens of 2018 – ‘More than 2,400 petition signatures oppose Berlaimont plan north of Edwards’

Vail Daily; December 25, 2018

**Quote:** “Heading into 2019, residents have been voicing their opposition to the proposed Berlaimont Estate plans in Edwards, a 680-acre parcel of private property surrounded by U.S. Forest Service lands. The proposal includes 19 units and nine accessory units on 35-acre or larger parcels in the area.”
Buck Berlaimont march, rally attracts large crowd Saturday in Edwards
Vail Daily; March 18, 2019
**Quote:** “A standing-room-only crowd filled a BMHS lecture hall Saturday to hear local experts and residents cite their opposition to the proposed Berlaimont development.”

Berlaimont opponents appeal directly to Forest Service supervisor - group of hunters, concerned citizens voice concerns over paved access road to proposed development
Vail Daily; May 25, 2019
**Quote:** “Wolf noted the group presented a video and jumbo-sized community letter signed by more than 200 Eagle River Valley residents during a Buck Berlaimont Rally for Wildlife held March 16 at Battle Mountain High School. The group also handed over a petition with more than 100 signatures from local youth between the ages of 14 and 17.”

What Eagle County can and can’t do about Berlaimont
Vail Daily; June 17, 2019
**Quote:** “The road variance approved by Eagle County should not be interpreted as approval for this type of land use,” stated the county’s USFS Berlaimont comment. “The variance simply dictates the standards that a road would need to meet if the proponents of Berlaimont were to develop the parcels as proposed.”

Forest Service officials try to find something that’s like Berlaimont proposal
Vail Daily; June 21, 2019
**Quote:** “Under the provisions of a 1980 federal law called the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, owners of properties such as Berlaimont, which are surrounded by USFS land, are entitled to “reasonable use” of their land. The act also requires “adequate and feasible” access to in-holding properties. That is the impetus for the White River Forest’s environmental impact statement on Berlaimont — to analyze and disclose the environmental effects of providing access to the private property.”
https://www.vaildaily.com/news/what-is-similar-to-berlaimont/

Berlaimont team defends controversial development proposal
Vail Daily; July 13, 2019
**Quote:** “In fact, the team and the owners of the Edwards-area parcel remain resolute that the proposal is viable and legal. Hundreds of local residents, as well as numerous elected officials, disagree.”

Elk herd population plummets in Aspen, Vail areas as human use grows
The Aspen Times; February 1, 2020
**Quote:** “The problem is the elk population is no longer resilient,” Millhouser said. “They’ve been putting up with all the insults and injuries of development and human activity throughout the ’80 and ’90s and finally it reached that point where all that stretch was taken out.”
Showdown over Trump’s plan to overhaul landmark environmental law heads to Colorado: Hearing on NEPA rewrite set for Denver as 50-year-old law guides environmental review of project in Vail Valley
The Denver Post; February 9, 2020

Quote: “State wildlife officials warned of problems as the review began in 2016. Gov. Jared Polis, U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet and Rep. Joe Neguse, all Democrats, last summer weighed in, urging close attention in a letter to Fitzwilliams, noting the road would mean changing a forest management plan to open up an area that’s been closed from November through May to help elk survive.”