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Comments:

Closing trails is never the answer, all this does is promotes illegal usage of trails that have been around for a long time. That is a reality Government agencies never fully understand. Then they wonder why people are still using closed trails. I do not endorse it, however it is a reality.

The economic impact of closing trails and what it does to an area is very high. No more dropping into Rico/Calico easily. No more buying fuel and lunch. Limiting emergency exits for trail users that then have to decide whether to risk a ticket to make it out safely or push on and possible cause harm to themselves.

Calving that has never been an issue is now an issue! I'm a Hiker, I'm a Mountain Biker, a Dirt Biker, a 4-Wheeler, Horseback Rider, and ATV/UTV user. I consider myself pro environment but a lot of these decisions to close trails seems to say "We want to stop economic growth in these areas" by Government agencies. How do the TOWNS feel? I'm sure they don't want to see less people spending money in their local communities. They want to see more money being spent.

We should be opening new trails to make connections to other trails easier, to spread out the users more, and so that the public can see the land they pay for.

A break down of the trails with thoughts.

Trails Proposed for Closure:

Bear Creek

- Great connector from Grindstone/Gold Run/Little Bear
- Provides best emergency out, all other options are very difficult or add a lot of distance, safety of trail users should be a concern.
- There are more alternative non-motorized hiking and fishing trails in the area already.

Winter Trail

- Proposed to be rerouted around quiet area, PAPA and other motorized volunteers keep trail clear for other users (lots of deadfall)

Horse Creek

- Accesses close to town of Rico, provides an emergency out to Calico System.

Burnett

- Accesses town of Rico directly, provides an emergency out to Calico System. The road is to remain open and there are no easement issues on the trail noise will be essentially the same from traffic on the road.

Ryman Creek

- Removes all motorized access from Dolores River Area to Corral Draw portion of Hermosa Creek System

Wildcat

- Not really useful in its current configuration for motorized use

Trails Proposed for Opening:

Morrison Trail

- Short, no connector to Gold Run would need to cross a ?quiet area? easement.

Spring Creek

- Yes! This trail is awesome open er up!

Trails Proposed for realignment:

Grindstone

- The proposed realignment would make for a better experience for non-motorized Colorado Trail users and a better experience for Motorized users connection to other trails

Proposed Seasonal Restrictions:

July-1 to Sept-8

Not enough time to clear trails in spring, or at all really, not all trails in system affect big game calving and should not be subject to the same seasonal closures. Currently there are no seasonal closures in the system