

Date submitted (UTC): 12/15/2014 2:28:23 AM

First name: Greg

Last name: Deem

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 141 Northeast Circle

Address2:

City: Durango

State: CO

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 81301

Country: United States

Email: greg\_deem@yahoo.com

Phone: 98707647372

Comments:

Dear USFS,

Thank you for your time and effort on the Rico West Dolores Roads and Trails Project. I am an avid trail user in the proposed area and would like to share my experience with you. Of note, I am opposed to the proposal. I ride mountain bikes and dirt bikes on these trails regularly. While on my mountain bike I am grateful for the effort made by people, mostly dirt bikers to clear these trails of trees. Opening these trails after the winter is a major volunteer effort and would likely not be made in many years and not done as well as is done currently. This will inevitably lead to trail braiding and to a lower quality trail experience. Attempting to ride (on my bicycle) non motorized trails in the area is proof enough to me that trail quality will vastly diminish if motorcycle travel is limited.

As a motorcyclist, I find the trails in this area to be without equal. While I have been out on the trails, I have had nothing but positive interactions with other trail users. My friends and I always yield the trail to others. We are respectful of noise and will shut off our engines if going down hill while we pass hikers. Losing access to these trails will have a significant negative impact on me.

In response to the limited time of access to the trails (7/1 - 9/8) I think this does not benefit the majority of trail users. While on some years the snow does not melt out until after 7/1, many years and most years lately it does. Also, there are many miles of quality trails below the late snow fields which are perfectly appropriate to ride in June. It takes most of June to clear the trails. Once again, this is done primarily by dirt bikers. If dirt bikers and subsequent trail clearing has to wait until 7/1 then all trail users will be impacted. Also, given the short time of the proposed riding season volunteer motivation will diminish and trail clearing may not be done. Once again, this is a volunteer service to the area that benefits all users and is done by dirt bikers.

In response to widening the trails to 62"- well, that is just a road then. There are plenty of roads in the area for people to use UTVs on. If a person requires a UTV for hunting, then I would suggest using a different zone. For dirt bikers, there aren't different zones. This is it.

The proposed travel plan effectively cuts the town of Rico off from this trail system. I do not know the local feeling toward dirt bikers, but I know the town likes money and can use any resource they can get. Many trail riders have street legal bikes and can easily drop down to Rico for lunch and gas. They can also rent vacation homes and hotel rooms for their trips. Having the Calico trail system open via Burennett Crk and Horse Creek and Having the Hermosa system open via Ryman trail puts Rico at the center of the greatest collection of motorized single track that I know of. Being able to connect the Mancos trails via Grindstone, Bear Creek, Gold Run and Morrison trails is also very important. When looking at uses, just having trails open is not enough. They need to be a system and the riders need to be able to go somewhere. Making more situations like the top of Corral Draw trail does not benefit anyone. It is great having Corral Draw trail open. But it does not connect to anything. That is not ideal. I do like the idea of realigning the top of Grindstone, but not at the expense of everything else.

I may be wrong, but I believe that there is a small number of people with very deep pockets trying to decide what the public gets to do with their National Forest. From what I can tell, at least in this small corner of the

forest, most people want to ride dirt bikes. For the few people who don't want to be around dirt bikes then the whole of the rest of the forest is open to them. I believe that the dirt bikers are among the most respectful trail users and that they provide the most volunteer service. The Travel Management Plan, as proposed will have a negative effect on most trail users in this area.

Thanks,

Greg Deem