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Comments:

Rico-West Dolores management plan

Dear Mr. Padilla and Mrs. Kill

I am writing as a concerned area resident by Rico. I have been in and around the Rico area since 1986, this last time. I have been informed that the Town of Rico and the Rico Alpine Society does not want motorized recreation around the town. Review of the proposed action for Rico-West Dolores confirms that Burnett, Horse Creek and Ryman Creek trails are being proposed for closure to motorized users, leaving no OHV motorized access in or out of the Town. I am writing to tell you that neither the Town of Rico nor the Rico Alpine Society is accurately representing the Town's position, or area residents and businesses, and I am opposed to the proposed closures.

The Rico Alpine Society no longer exists and cannot be relied on to represent anyone around Rico. Until recently I had no idea that the Town Board held this non-motorized position and was presumably speaking for everyone. As a Rico area property owner and neighbor, these closures are unacceptable and will affect the Rico businesses, the towns economy, the economy of the neighboring businesses like Circle K Ranch and Priest Gulch Campground. They have summer visitors that come and stay to enjoy the beautiful country we have to offer, and to ride the trails just like the local people like to do.

I too have run cattle and I know how frustrating it is when others do not leave the gates closed, or they cut the back boundary fence wires because they are too tired to go all the way back around to come down Tenderfoot Trail. We don't close off all public lands because a few hunters break the rules. Like all things, there are a few bad apples out there that cause trouble, but it is not fair to make the rest of us have to suffer the consequences too. You don't close the whole store down because there are some who may shoplift.

The offenders need to suffer the consequences, not the whole town and the area residents and campgrounds.

The problem doesn't come from the locals using the trails and roads, it's the bad apples coming in from elsewhere. We love our area and take care of it. Has there not been any patrolling of these areas to make sure that people are staying where they are supposed to be and not riding where ever they want, so the damage doesn't happen? Can't scouting cameras be used to help keep those few riders in check, and fines be given if necessary? This way if a few of those offenders were fined it might nip it at the bud for any others thinking about doing whatever they want, especially if game cameras were out and about.

Of all the different times I have ridden, snowmobiles or 4 wheelers, I have never been stopped to see if my stickers are current. That is why I was wondering if any patrolling goes on, or if there are any check points set up anywhere. Having check points, you could also check to see if the motorcycles have the correct mufflers on so that the noise level wouldn't be an issue either. These are some of the things our tax payer dollars could be use for.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely, Ann Larsen