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Comments:

Travel management plan around Rico, Co.

To Forest Service managers and decision makers;

My name is Skip Zeller, I am 62, and have lived in Rico, Colorado for 33 years. My home is located in a small neighborhood of 14 homes on the west side of the Dolores River in a community known locally as West Rico, a community of dogs, children, older folks, families young and old, the occasional elk and a coyote or two. Oh, and a few cows.

To consider any Alternative besides B, is to invite more motorized traffic thru West Rico, not less. The proposed new trail from the Montelores bridge, north up the old rail grade to Alkali Flats and on up the Burnett Creek trail is ludicrous. Signage "encouraging" other routes besides W. Rico will be ignored. Riders use W. Rico as an access, have and always will because they always have. With the new trail perhaps more so, as they descend to town for refreshment then return to their staging area south. Additionally, the new trail will encourage convenient, less challenging riding for the casual user who will ride thru town to the Montelores bridge and return the same way. Close the Burnett Creek trail and problem solved.

Where else in Colorado do people stage motorized rides in a town?

Did not the Forest Service agree back in 2003 to honor a 3 mile quiet zone around Rico?

If Alternatives C, D, or E are implemented, there will be no quiet zone. There will be conflict with town residents, there will be conflict with wildlife accessing the river, there will be conflict with bipeds walking their dogs or out for a peaceful stroll, there will be conflict with wetlands and erosion, and there will be conflict with livestock.

Why does the motorized community require more access? Soon there will be nowhere for anyone to go without conflict. The Burnett Creek drainage and the Burnett Creek Basin simply need to be closed. Please help protect this area.

sincerely,

Skip Zeller

124 N. Dolores River Trail

Rico, Co. 81332