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First name: John

Last name: Pryor

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email: 1johnhans@gmail.com

Phone:

Comments:

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Rico/West Dolores Roads and Trails (Travel Management) Project Comments

Dear Debbie,

as a former Mayor of Telluride and a long time San Juan Mountains resident I am writing to you today to ask you to please protect the Dolores River watershed for quiet recreational use, wildlife habitat and watershed health. I support alternative E.

I like Alternative E for several reasons. I want to see the East Fork Trail, be non-motorized, it should not be part of a loop/connector for motorized use because there is already a road that goes to the same location and because there are healthy cut throat trout in the river;

The Northern Calico Trail is already damaged by way too much motorcycle use, it goes above timberline where the ground is easily damaged and because it is good habitat for wildlife; The Bear Creek Trail and all the trails going into that drainage is very pristine and a roadless area, which has cutthroat trout are in the creek and many outfitters use this area to take clients who do not want to see or hear motorcycles.

These trails have been enjoyed over the years by quiet users but many of us have been displaced in recent years because we do not want to run into motorcycles. We want our trails back. No decision should be made because one user group donates money or time for their special desired use. In other words the Forest Service should not be swayed just because the motorcycle user group cuts trails out or money comes from their associated uses. Decisions should only be made to protect and conserve wildlife habitat and the natural resources.

Lets safeguard these 245,000 acres of the Dolores River watershed for wildlife habitat, watershed health and quiet-use recreation activities including hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, foraging, hunting and more.

These trails need to be protected from motorized use:

Bear Creek	Northern Calico
Grindstone	Johnny Bull
Rough Canyon	East Fall and West Fall Creek
East Fork	Burnett Creek

I support the "Desired Outcome" detailed in the SFNF management plan for the Town of Rico that recommends "non-motorized recreation modes to emphasize the community's quiet-use character." All trails originating in Rico be designated non-motorized.

Thank you very much,
Respectfully,

John Pryor

John Pryor
PO Box 1439 (US Mail)
518 W Galena Ave (UPS, Fed-Ex)
Telluride, CO 81435
970-729-1575