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Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I have lived in San Miguel County for 40 years.

I am in favor of more wilderness, both officially designated and defacto, more quiet areas, fewer motorized vehicles on area trails in both summer and winter. I favor safeguarding the 245,000 acres of the Dolores River watershed in question for wildlife habitat, watershed health and quiet-use recreation activities including hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, fishing, foraging, hunting and more. There are conflicts in user groups and nonmotorized recreation is underrepresented as compared to the deeper pockets of the motorized recreation industry.

I would like to see the following designated as quiet use trails:

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

I support the elimination of motored travel in all of the Bear Creek drainage, as specified in the Alternatives D and E (detailed in the Draft EIS on the website explained below) is a high priority need. This would include no motorized travel on the following trails - Bear Creek, Gold Run, Little Bear, Grindstone and Hillside Connector.

I also support the "Desired Outcome" detailed in the SJNF 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 should be designated non-motorized.

I support Alternative E. Quiet users need to be able to enjoy a Quality Recreation Experience in a few areas - areas without the noise, smell and hazards of motorized trail traffic. Alternative E is the only Alternative that provides that experience. Within the entire Dolores District, there are currently no areas reserved for quiet use - both the Mancos-Cortez area and the Boggy-Glade area are bisected completely by motorized trails and dominated by motorized use. Motorized users have plenty of trails to utilize on the San Juan National Forest and it's time that quiet users have an area reserved primarily for their use.

Please protect this important area from being overrun by motorized vehicles.

Thank you.