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Comments:

Rico West Dolores Roads & Trails Project

Dear Ms. Kill.

As a hunter, hiker, motorcyclist and single track trail user, I respectfully request that Alternative A be chosen. I am a civil engineer with much my work being in water resources and erosion control. I visited the area yesterday and consciously observed the trail conditions with respect to sustainability. It is my observation that the vast majority of the trails in the Rico-West Dolores are in very good condition. I would argue that the condition is better than most trail systems. The soil types are generally rocky and make for fun challenging, sustainable trails. These trails are generally remote and allow for a low density of users. It also makes them difficult to maintain on foot or horseback. As a lifetime member of the San Juan Trail Riders, we realize that trail use can cause erosion. That is why we organize efforts to repair and maintain trails to provide more benefit than demand we place on these resources.

I believe that the political pressure to close trails is well orchestrated, however some of the public has been misinformed. Many of the trails in question are world class singletrack and harness the collaborative efforts of many user groups who maintain them. Much of the propaganda for closing trails is misinformed or exaggerated and some is absolutely incorrect. My family enjoys, maintains, and respectfully shares these trails. I sincerely hope that my son has the same trail use privileges that we have had. Please continue to allow the many users to share the trail.

Thank you for your continued efforts.

Sincerely,

Jeff Pillus

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Durango, CO 81301

