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Comments:

I am writing to support Alternative E to preserve a Quality Recreational Experience with non-motorized use. As a hiker and horseback rider, I have traveled virtually all the trails available in the impact district. The loud noise of motorbikes combined with the usual breakneck speed remains a significant problem, especially in the presence of horses. The destruction and damage of existing trails where motorbikes have been allowed is massive and unique to the motorbikes. Recently while camping at the Calico Trailhead, we hiked the Winter Trail with our grandchildren. Across the fragile meadows, deep (at least 18" or more) ruts have destroyed the trail, made it impossible to walk in the trail, and create long runs of deep, mud filled scars. The time and cost to repair such damage is significant, and it is only the high powered, fast motorbike travel that creates and worsens the situation. Similar damage is on the Calico Trail, now closed due to such damage.

Most trails in this area should be confined to Quiet Use Only, e.g. Bear Creek, Northern Calico, Grindstone, Johnny Bull, Rough Canyon, East Fall and West Fall Creek, East Fork, and Burnett Creek. If allowed, seasonal use from perhaps July 1-September 8 should be the only window to protect wildlife habitat, melt out trail destruction, etc.

My family and I also support the "Desired Outcome" detailed in the SFNF management plan for the Town of Rico.

There are plentiful areas and trails that exist for motorized users. Quiet users should have an area reserved primarily for such appropriate use.

Respectfully,

Robert C. Snip, MD