

Date submitted (UTC): 7/15/2016 9:00:11 PM

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Comments:

Hello, I'm writing in support of alternative C. I primarily mountain bike in the Rico-West Dolores area, but occasionally I hike the trails and jeep the roads. Over the years I have seen both trail improvements and trail deterioration. I have also noticed an overall increase in all types of users. Alternative C shows itself as a common sense approach when addressing these issues.

Trail deterioration typically occurs due to muddy conditions and/or steep grade. With that in mind there are some specific reasons for endorsing alternative C:

- \* Closing Winter trail to motorized travel makes sense because it is frequently muddy. This was once a nice trail but has become entrenched and difficult to use.

- \* Adding approved, contiguous motorcycle use on Spring Creek from Stoner Mesa to Taylor Mesa, and the Spring Creek connection on Taylor Mesa, creates a nice motorcycle loop. Increased motorcycle traffic would improve this otherwise seldom used and overgrown section of trail, and potentially reduce the motorized traffic on Calico.

- \* The trail condition of Twin Springs has improved from the additional motorcycle traffic. It is now easier to navigate and the trail surface has improved. Additionally, it provides a better option for connecting Spring Creek to Priest Gulch, because it minimizes the number of road miles needed.

- \* Motorcycle users have a notable track record for clearing downed trees from these trails. The seasonal closures in alternative C allow access to the trail around the time it typically dries out, allowing for early clearing of downed trees. More limited seasonal closures (as in other Alternatives) will result in trees not being cleared, or the burden would fall on other user groups and the FS to clear the trees. Resulting in other trail improvement projects being delayed, ignored or left incomplete.

Other suggestions:

- \* Educational signage showing a preferred direction for motorcycle users to ride some of these trails. There are some trails that would be better for downhill motorcycle traffic only, due to the steep grades and moisture. Keeping in mind the best direction overall when riding a loop. If there is not guidance and signage then unfamiliar users may inadvertently damage a trail by going a direction that results in more trail impact. The switchbacks at the south end of Stoner Mesa is a good example.

Some trail re-alignments suggestions to improve the existing system for all proposed users:

- \* Ryman should be the primary focus for a trail re-alignment out of all these trails. This trail has the best potential as an uphill trail option to access the Colorado Trail. Re-aligning the trail to achieve a continuous moderate grade would make, would not only improve the sustainability, it would be the best uphill singletrack access to the western side of the Colorado trail.

- \* The south end of Calico (or Tenderfoot trail) should be a primary focus for a trail re-alignment on the north side of 145. Re-aligning Calico for uphill traffic so there is a continuous moderate grade up to the junction with upper Priest Gulch would create a nice loop and provide options to loop back down a variety of different trails. This would also result in a more sustainable trail for all the uses proposed.

- \* The north end of Calico needs re-aligned out of the swampy areas that require continual maintenance if there is a suitable alternative route.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Dani Gregory, Trail Advocate, Volunteer and User