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First name: Mark

Last name: Eleison

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 11692 Road 27.1

Address2: 7 S. Commercial St; Rico

City: Dolores

State:

Province/Region: CO

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email: markeleison@hotmail.com

Phone: 805-305-1740

Comments:

I am writing to protest the proposal to give motorcyclists' access to the Rio Grande Southern grade south of Rico between Burnet Creek and the Montelores Bridge. Don't do it! This historic RR grade should only be used as a non-motorized trail. (Also, have you forgotten the campers on the east of the river opposite the grade and how the noise will affect them?)

Furthermore, a footbridge should be built (or laid?) across the Dolores, just below the coke ovens, at approximately the point where the RGS crossed the river, as indicated by the trestle remnants. The bridge would connect with the trail on the east of the river that runs for about a one and half miles into Rico. Thus with a bridge you would have a four and one half mile trail through a beautiful canyon and adjacent to a great river, from the RGS water tower to the Montelores Bridge that for 65 years has been nearly forgotten.

What a great recreational experience that would be for people of all ages, and what a boon for Rico businesses! With a bridge hikers and bicyclists would have easy access from Rico to the Montelores Bridge, which they do not have now--and would continue not to have if you allow motorcycles on it! AND such a bridged trail would also evoke the RGS, as the trail on the east side of the river runs by several trestle remnants, while also giving easy access to those fascinating coke ovens, which people do not have now.

All of this will be lost if you go ahead with the motorcycle proposal. I remind you also that Rico does not have an easy-grade walking/biking trail, as nearly all communities do these days--and what a loss that is. This trail would fill that void. What a tragedy it would be if that opportunity is lost.