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Comments:

Rico West Dolores Roads and Trails Project

1. Seasonal Closures: We support a July 1- September 8 motorized season

Seasonal closures, the length of season motorized trail users can utilize trails, is a critical decision that will be made in this process. We support the shortest open season under consideration, July 1 to September 8th, because it will best preserve trails, minimize disruption during spring elk calving and rearing, and bring quiet to most of the fall season for both hunters and most other trail users.

2. More Quiet Use Trails: We suggest additional non-motorized trails

While Alternative E is the best proposed option, we suggest the following trails should also be non-motorized:

Burnett Creek: This would fulfill the 2013 SJNF Forest Management Plan's guarantee to manage the Rico area for it's "quiet use character."

Calico Trail: Close the north section of this trail above the intersection with the Priest Gulch Trail (The Southern Calico/Priest Gulch motorized Loop would remain for motorized use).

Rough Canyon: We would like to see the Forest Service eliminate motorcycle traffic on this trail within this cutthroat stream watershed.

Eagle Peak: Motorcycle use on this fragile high altitude trail has caused extensive resource damage and needs to be stopped.

3. User Conflict: Motorized trail users are displacing the majority of quiet-use recreationists

User conflict amongst trail users is a serious issue in the region under consideration, where quiet users are have already been displaced from motorized trails. Only 2-3% of trail users in the Rico/West Dolores are motorized users, yet they create significantly more impacts due to noise, emissions, trail erosion, etc. Quiet users, making up the vast majority of trail users, deserve a high quality recreational experience within a trail system that is primarily quiet-use trails. Let the Forest Service know they should make management decisions to honor the quiet use priorities of the Rico/West Dolores Travel Management Area!!!

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