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Comments:

TOWN OF RICO

DOLORES COUNTY, COLORADO

INCORPORATED OCTOBER 11, 1879

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July 25, 2017

Dolores Public Lands Office
Derek Padilla, District Ranger
29211 Highway 184
Dolores Colorado 81323

Dear Mr. Padilla,

The Town of Rico Board of Trustees is withdrawing the Town of Rico comment letter dated January 26, 2015 regarding the Rico-West Dolores Roads and Trails (Travel Management) Project. We have decided to limit our comments to just those aspects of the proposal that directly impact the Town of Rico. The Horse Creek Trail, the Burnett Creek Trail and the Rio Grande Southern all lie immediately adjacent to the Town of Rico. With this in mind, we offer these comments.

Rico is the only town municipality entirely enveloped by the Travel Management Project area we hope our comments will be given weight. We agree with Alternative B (Proposed Action) with the following exception:

ALTERNATIVE B allows motorized use of Burnett Creek and closes Horse Creek to motorized use. It is the Town of Rico's strong preference to reverse this. Horse Creek, as opposed to Burnett Creek, is the most appropriate point for motorized ingress and egress between the Calico Trail and Highway 145. Over the last 5 to 7 years, the lower section of Horse Creek Trail has been widened and graded to accommodate motor vehicles. Horse Creek is the quickest route down from the Calico Trail to Highway 145, and a staging area exists along Highway 145 at Horse Creek's entrance. Prohibiting motorized use of Burnett Creek will protect the quiet residential neighborhood of West Rico from the dust, traffic, noise and safety problems that occur with motorized use of Burnett Creek.

The Rio Grand Southern 3 appears to be that portion of the historic railroad grade that runs through the East Dolores River between the bridge at the Montezuma/Dolores county line and Rico. ALTERNATIVE B currently identifies it as a trail allowing non-motorized vehicle use. We applaud the addition of trails in our region and we encourage you to keep this trail as a non-motorized trail. Allowing motorized use in this area poses serious safety concerns. Vehicles tend to increase their speed on this relatively flat and straight trail. Combining motorized and non-motorized use in this area is hazardous. Moreover, linking Rio Grand Southern 3 and the Burnett Creek Trail, if motorized, would route even more off-road vehicles through the West Rico

neighborhood, exacerbating noise, dust, traffic impacts (and safety concerns) in this densely populated area.
Please keep us informed regarding your decision.
Thank you so much,

Kari Distefano
Rico Town Manager