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Rico West Dolores Roads and Trails Project

I would like to comment on the Rico/West Dolores Roads and Trails (Travel Management) Project. Of the alternatives offered, I would opt for Alternative E with modifications. As you well know, the impacts of motorized trail users greatly impacts those of quiet trail users by virtue of their noise, exhaust, and impacts on the trail system. Trails which I would like to see remain QUIET and not mixed use, are Burnett Creek, Rough Canyon, Eagle Peak, and the Calico Trail. All of these trails would benefit from less erosion (esp. Eagle Pk.!), and motorized impacts on the fragile environments in which they exist. And Rough Canyon would additionally benefit from the watershed not being disturbed (silt, erosion...) for the Cutthroat trout population there. Lastly, a seasonal closure for elk calf birthing/rearing should be enacted from July to September. In the end, quiet users DO NOT impact either the recreationalist experience, nor the environment to the extent of motorized uses. Alternative B is not satisfactory due to this fact. These trails are a favorite recreational destination for myself and my family. Close to my home and as of yet not too impacted. Again, Alternative E with the above suggested changes would be my recommendation to the USFS.

With thanks, T. Thomas

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