



October 24, 2022

US Forest Service  
San Juan National Forest Columbine Ranger District  
Attn: Tim Leishman  
Sent via email to: [timothy.leishman@usda.gov](mailto:timothy.leishman@usda.gov)

*Mayor*  
Barbara Noseworthy

*Mayor Pro Tem*  
Melissa Youssef

*Councilors*  
Jessika Buell  
Olivier Bosmans  
Kim Baxter

*City Manager*  
José Madrigal

Dear Mr. Leishman,

I am writing on behalf of the city of Durango to comment on the Junction-Falls Integrated Resource Management (J-FIRM) Project.

The J-FIRM project area is in close proximity to city-owned lands as well as the population center for Durango residences and businesses. The city wholeheartedly supports project-wide wildfire protection, forest health and wildlife habitat protection projects, as well as the establishment of sustainable trails and mitigation of undesignated trails that have resulted in resource degradation. Additionally, proposed actions to rehabilitate and protect Junction Creek are of great interest as these activities would contribute to the health of Junction Creek and of the Animas River.

The city commends the San Juan National Forest for pursuing ADA opportunities during this process, as accessible recreation in mid to backcountry settings are currently very limited across the region.

The city partners closely with San Juan National Forest staff on fire mitigation, forest health, and recreational management activities across boundaries. Shared stewardship opportunities that may arise through this J-FIRM project or through Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative projects are welcomed by the city as our organizations continue to protect and enhance our region's natural, recreational, and cultural resources.

Thank you for including these comments in your scoping process. I am available to discuss any ideas this letter may generate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "AS" or "Amy Schwarzbach".

Amy Schwarzbach  
Natural Resources Manager  
City of Durango