

4/3/2025

Objections to Telluride Mountain Club proposed project

Re: Sheep Mountain Traverse:

- 1) No need There is absolutely no reason for the Sheep Mountain Traverse as the existing Galloping Goose trail already provides the same access.
- 2) Recreation at Trout Lake is already very high. There are many many people that enjoy paddleboarding, fishing, camping, picnicking, biking, hiking etc. there. Despite what is stated in the report, in the summer especially, the traffic on the road is heavy. Speed signs are of no use. Parking is in short supply. Being owners at Trout Lake for 24 yrs, I can testify to this as our cabin is very close to the road and I see it every day. We do not need another trail.
- 3) Wetlands The Sheep Mountain Traverse, as noted on pg. 60, the temporary or permanent negative impact on the wetlands is up to an estimated 0.88 acre. Almost 1 acre ! And this is a deceptive figure. Both A and A and B options cross the designated wetland locations a minimum of 10-12 times. It is noted that permanent damage to this significant amount of area might be mitigated by the installation of bridges and other structures. Just the construction of such requires mechanized earth moving equipment which would permanently damage these wetlands and the old growth forest of which they inhabit.
- 4) Historic Trout Lake Trestle: Very surprisingly omitted in the draft proposal is the significant negative impact to the historic Trout Lake Trestle. Although the map shows the actual trails, what is omitted is their very close proximity (approx less than 100 yards) to the old wooden Trout Lake Trestle. The Trout Lake Trestle was added to the Colorado State Registry of Historic Properties in May of 1997. Built in 1891 for the railroad, the structure has been deteriorating. Because of funding from NFS and others, the trestle was stabilized in 2004. Later, to avoid further damage, concrete barriers were installed to keep people and vehicles off it, which have provided little to no impediment. However, time and time again I have witnessed groups of people, some in groups, some with their bikes, out on the trestle for Instagram-like photos. This, of course, creates an attractive nuisance which would only increase use and inflicting even more damage to this aging and beloved structure. This is not to mention the huge safety concerns.
- 5) Non motorized vehicles” There is a blurry distinction between E-bikes and traditional bikes (including mountain bikes). Popular e-bikes weigh between 60-100 pounds, easily 15-20 pounds more than most bikes. E-bikes are allowed

on all Telluride Ski Trails. Guidance from NFS and BLM for other areas besides the ski area is a work in progress. A 60-100 lb. E-bike has significantly more impact on the environment based on their weight alone. To state the obvious, they go uphill and downhill, some at considerable speed, which only increases the use and impact on trails.

This proposal is the epitome of contradiction to “sustainability”.

I am very opposed to the proposed Sheep Mountain Traverse and hope my serious concerns are duly noted.

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