



May 5, 2025

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests
2250 South Main Street
Delta, CO 81416

RE: Comments on Telluride Ski Resort Improvements EA

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Telluride Ski Resort's (TSR) proposed Master Development Plan (MDP), specifically regarding the new summer mountain bike connector trail.

Telluride Mountain Club (TMtC) is a local nonprofit dedicated to advocating for sustainable and accessible recreation opportunities in the Telluride region. TMtC has worked closely with the USFS Norwood Ranger District over the past several years to prioritize, plan, and execute trail projects in the area. In addition, TMtC performs annual maintenance on USFS trails, helps protect outdoor recreation opportunities on public lands, and partners with regional entities to preserve and enhance outdoor recreation in the community.

TMtC is generally supportive of new trail development, provided it does not significantly impact wildlife, sensitive vegetation, or cultural resources—factors we understand will be evaluated during the Environmental Assessment (EA) as part of the NEPA process. The proposed Green Tech Mountain Bike Trail appears to offer value by addressing a current gap in TSR's trail network. We understand the rationale for this trail from a skill progression standpoint. However, it is important to note that access will be limited to those who purchase a pass to the TSR Bike Park. As such, the trail will not serve the

broader public recreation community in the same way that free-to-access, multi-use trails on public lands do. We support the construction of this trail on the condition that it does not preclude future opportunities to develop free and publicly accessible trails on adjacent USFS lands.

According to the revised GMUG Forest Plan, trail density in semi-primitive non-motorized management areas is limited to two miles of trail per square mile. We urge the Forest Service to carefully assess whether approving this trail under the MDP would count toward the trail density cap in this zone, and whether it could limit future opportunities for free, publicly accessible trail development on nearby public lands. Ensuring equitable access to trails for a broad range of users should remain a top priority.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued efforts to balance recreational access and resource protection across the GMUG National Forests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sophie Fabrizio', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sophie Fabrizio

Director

Telluride Mountain Club

sophie@telluridemountainclub.org | 970-239-3839