

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/13/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Gary

Last name: Wilkinson

Organization: San Juan Trail Riders

Title:

Comments: October 8, 2020

Columbine Ranger District

Southern HD's Landscape Restoration Project

Attn: James Simino

PO Box 439

367 Pearl Street

Bayfield, CO 81122

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the 400 plus members of San Juan Trail Riders, please accept this letter of support for the Southern HD's Landscape Restoration Project specifically as it relates to the proposed OHV trail in the Sauls Creek area.

The proposed trail would provide a valuable link between the currently designated OHV trails on either end of the planning area, and because of its close proximity to the communities of Bayfield and Ignacio, we feel it would be a valuable asset. We further contend it could help in reducing the parking congestion that currently occurs off Road 525. We believe if the proposed trail is approved it will serve OHV enthusiasts and non-motorized trail users alike, including mountain bikers, hikers, and equestrians. We also feel that the trail would be a useful tool for wild land fire fighters, should one occur in the area. We are confident that we can help secure funding from Colorado's OHV Program to construct and maintain the trail should it be approved and are anxious to participate in the project should it move forward.

We see no ecological and/or resource conflicts as a result of the proposed trail; understanding the valuable wildlife habitat of the Sauls Creek area, and gladly accept seasonal restrictions should they be applied to all public land users and deemed appropriate by the wildlife biologists.

In closing, we strongly support the proposed OHV trail and offer our assistance as needed.

Thank you,

Gary Wilkinson

Board of Directors

San Juan Trail Riders