



**TOWN OF RICO**  
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**2 North Commercial Street**  
**Post Office Box 9**  
**Rico, Colorado 81332**  
**Office # 970.967.2861**  
**Fax # 970.967.2862**  
<https://www.colorado.gov/ricocolorado>

July 22, 2020

Dolores Public Lands Office  
Derek Padilla, District Ranger  
29211 Highway 184  
Dolores Colorado 81323

Dear Mr. Padilla,

The Town of Rico continues to support U.S.F.S. efforts on the multi-use trail project referred to as the Rico Trails Project. The Town supports the third proposed alternative action on the project, which includes a seasonal closure of the Ryman Creek Trail between May 15<sup>th</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> each year to protect elk during spring calving season.

Rico's economy is heavily dependent on outdoor recreation and this project will provide improvements that will make recreational experiences in the area more enjoyable for both visitors and residents.

The project as proposed will provide a broad range of experiences for hikers and mountain bikers of all ability levels. The project will also provide connection for motorized trails that were fragmented.

Hunting is popular in the Rico area and the Town supports actions that will help maintain big game health and populations.

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration.

Kari Distefano,  
Rico Town Manager