



December 18, 2020

Comment on USFS Rico Trails Project –Draft Decision.

The Rico Trails Alliance (“RTA”) supports the Draft Decision on the Rico Trails Project, including the seasonal wildlife closure (May 15-June 30) of Ryman Creek Trail, which was proposed as the third alternative in the revised Environmental Assessment dated 6/24/20.

The small additions and changes brought by the Rico Trails Project will provide great improvement to the region’s trails by making for a more connective and cohesive trail system.

Bringing the Circle Trail back into the USFS trail inventory will provide better connectivity between the Town of Rico and the Colorado Trail. The Circle Trail has been in use since Rico’s mining era, and designating the trail will allow for needed maintenance, signage, and mapping.

The Ryman Trail desperately needs realignment in key sections to make the trail functional and sustainable. When realigned as a sustainable trail, the Ryman Trail will offer new loop opportunities and system connectivity. The proposed Ryman Trail seasonal closure balances recreational needs with protection of wildlife.

The Rio Grand Southern (RGS) trail, which is to be considered in a separate decision, will provide a family-friendly riverside trail. The RGS will improve safety of recreation in the Rico area by offering an alternative to highway 145 for access to Ryman and Salt Creek trails.

Sincerely,

Alex Wing
President
Rico Trails Alliance