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Comments: II sit on Rico's Town board, but I am writing this comment personally...as a 22-year resident of the Town.

The non-motorized trail proposed for the RGS (Rio Grand Southern) railroad grade would be an incredible resource for the region. For several years, the Town of Rico has worked on a river corridor dedication project along the former RGS right of way. Our goal is to preserve Rico's pristine natural setting and historic "mining town" character with dedicated open space. A non-motorized trail along the river is critical to this effort. In the near term, creating a continuous trail from the Town of Rico south to the Dolores/Montezuma County line bridge is among the highest priorities for the Town and the Rico Trails Alliance, a local 501(c)(3) organization. Additionally, the RGS grade is the area's most suitable trail for beginner and intermediate hikers, cyclists and nordic skiers. It also incorporates several historic mining and railroad structures, including stone coke ovens, coal chutes, railroad trestle and bridge remnants, etc.

A motorized Spring Creek connector trail will provide a much needed multi use enhancement to the motorized trail networks south of Rico, connecting existing trails on Taylor Mesa and Stoner Mesa.

Reviving the Ryman Creek trail with a new non-motorized connector between upper and lower Ryman Creek is the least impactful means of allowing recreation, albeit non-motorized, in this sensitive high-alpine drainage basin.

Lastly, the historic Circle Trail (which pre-dates the USFS), is the only trail that directly connects Rico with the renowned Colorado Trail. Official designation of Circle Trail will enhance Colorado Trail experience for all of its users and will provide an excellent addition to Rico's hiking, hunting and cycling offerings.