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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on this project. I am the owner of the South Dolores Placer which lies about one mile south of Rico and is bordered on the south and west sides by SJNF. My land is bisected by the Dolores River with the old RR grade running along both sides of the river. Because of the proximity, I have some concerns about the proposed RGS trail. The description of where the trail will be located is rather vague both in the text and on the map. Naturally I'm concerned about trespassers on my land and if the members of this newly-formed bicycle club have familiarized themselves with my property boundaries. I'm also concerned about disturbances to elk and deer habitat and the sensitive riparian areas along both the Dolores River and Burnett Creek. In order to create a bike trail from road P that will connect with the RGS grade without trespassing onto my property and cause the least disturbance to wildlife, it will have to cross Burnett Creek somewhere above the large meadow area which parallels my west border along the top of the ridge and just beyond my coke ovens. This is where elk, deer and sometimes a small herd of cows graze. In addition, creating a trail that crosses Burnett Creek and parallels the Dolores River could potentially cause destruction to the sensitive riparian areas.

A RGS trail proposal was already considered in an extensive and lengthy study in the recent past and was found inappropriate and therefore rejected. I'm surprised that it is back on the table again since non-motorized bikers can present the same problems except for the noise and air pollution.

I hope that you will give this proposal careful consideration and the facts presented in the previous study to determine what, if anything, has changed that would make it appropriate now when it was rejected then. Thank you.