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Comments: I am in support of Alternative 3 of the Rico Trails Project for the following reasons:

Impacts to wildlife by recreational trail users are increasing as more people hit the trails. At the same time, recreational opportunities and trail system improvements are necessary to support healthy mountain communities like Rico. We support sustainable and holistic use, management, and construction of our trails. Seasonal closures are an effective tool for balancing the needs of wildlife and of recreational trail users.

The proposed seasonal closure is consistent with other high-elevation early-season wildlife closures in the San Juan National Forest.

The seasonal closure is most protective of wildlife by restricting all trail use, recognizing that all users impact wildlife. Alternative 3 represents an effective compromise by restricting use of an identified sensitive area during a critical time period and still providing recreational opportunity when appropriate. Thoughtful and effective compromises will become more crucial with time as more people enjoy our public lands. Without compromise, we only stand to lose access to trails.