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Title:

Comments: We are concerned about the longevity of this project and the negative impact it will have on wildlife, damage to existing trails and the local economy. The towns of Dolores and Cortez in cooperation with Mesa Verde Country have worked hard to build the local tourism industry and because of this the popularity in hiking and biking in our area has grown substantially and our local economy has benefitted from this. Local business owners and all their employees will be greatly impacted by this proposal. This is not a one season inconvenience, but years of trail disruption that will have a long term negative effect on the economies of Dolores and Cortez. If visitors come here with the expectation of being able to enjoy the Boggy draw area for riding, hiking, hunting, ATV use and Xcountry skiing and are unable to do this because of road and trail closures, they will go else where. Local businesses who are already struggling because of the pandemic may be forced to close due to the decline in tourism. When the project is finished, Dolores and Cortez will have to start their visitor campaigns over at great expense. We are against the size of this project and believe a less impactful mitigation plan can be used.