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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I would like to comment on the proposed Junction Creek Riparian Corridor and Trail, Logchutes, and Falls Creek/Hidden Valley JFIRM Project.

I would like to voice my opinion as an avid mountain biker and long time Durango area local. I am an avid user of the Log Chutes (and surrounding) area. I believe that the Log Chutes area presents a lot of opportunity to fill a gap/niche in regards to downhill mountain bike specific trails for the community here in Durango. This is a resource that would be extremely valuable to the community that lives here, as well as providing a further draw for Durango's cycle tourism.

The Log Chutes area is a bit more "off the beaten path" when compared to other trail networks in the Durango area. This would help to alleviate conflict that can be seen between user groups on more heavily trafficked trail systems. In addition to this, the landscape and terrain is ideal, providing both opportunities for excellent downhill trails and uphill accessibility, be it by bike or automobile. Furthermore, It is an area that has excellent existing access for emergency services should anyone be injured. It is a pretty ideal spot for filling the void of downhill specific mountain bike trails in/near Durango.

My concern with this project would be to leave it in the hands of Durango Trails to manage and construct. While I believe that Durango Trails is a great organization and does good work in some instances, I do not believe that they have the appropriate staffing, knowledge or bandwidth to execute this project to its full potential. IF THEY ARE TO BE INVOLVED, THEY SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO WORK WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY THAT WILL BE UTILIZING THESE TRAILS. If they have any questions as to who they can or should be consulted, I would be happy to provide them with the contact information of several hundred individuals that could/should be consulted. The end result of this project would be infinitely better if left in the hands of those regularly utilizing or Durango's gravity oriented cyclists.

Too often Durango Trails's overreaches and alter trails to the demise of the end user without ever consulting the user groups ahead of time. They also would lack the ability to maintain trails of this nature to the degree that would be required. Previous attempts by Durango Trails to create gravity oriented trails have been very expensive blunders that are now left in disrepair as they try to extend their grasp on the trail networks surrounding Durango. Directorship seems to be more focused on creating a vast personal legacy, than creating trails/networks that are not only highly beneficial to a significant part of the local community, they are being requested regularly and ignored.

Again, if the local gravity rider community had more of a say in the project, from start to finish, as well as had the ability to take some ownership and build, the trails would be taken care of for free, for the lifespan of said trails. The mountain bikers using this trail would be happy to build, create and maintain a project of this nature and do so free of charge had they the opportunity and freedom to do so. I know this because I am one of them.

Should alternate adopting organizations be pertinent, I have several suggestions here as well.